

Mission Creep

US Focusing Airstrikes To Protect Beiji Refinery

Defense Secretary Ash Carter, right, accompanied by Joint Chiefs Gen. Martin Dempsey, speaks during a news conference at the Pentagon, Thursday, April 16, 2015. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik) Page 3

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AP: Official says aircraft arrived under the radar

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The gyrocopter that landed on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol "apparently literally flew in under the radar," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said Thursday, as concerned lawmakers questioned how it was allowed to happen and why. Johnson said it's too soon to say whether Wednesday's incident should prompt changes in security procedures. "I want to know all the facts before I reach an assessment of what can and should be done about gyrocopters in the future," he said.

But lawmakers said the incident exposed a gap in security, especially amid revelations that the pilot, Florida postal worker Doug Hughes, was interviewed by the Secret Service almost two years ago. The agency apparently determined he did not pose a threat, said Rep. Elijah Cummings, the senior Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Cummings spoke Thursday with the Secret Service director. "I think that there's absolutely a gap, and it's a very dangerous gap, with regard to our airspace," Cummings said. "I don't want people to get a message that they can just land anywhere. Suppose there was a bomb or an explosive device on that air vehicle? That could have been a major catastrophe." □

US Focusing Airstrikes To Protect Beiji Refinery

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Losing the capital of Iraq's western Anbar province to

no risk right now."

The U.S. is focusing a lot of airborne intelligence, surveillance and aerial bombing on Beiji, said Dempsey,

about protecting Beiji than Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province where Islamic State fighters were reported Thursday to be closing

"It is his intent to focus now on Anbar province," Dempsey said.

Dempsey said Ramadi is a humanitarian problem because many residents have become refugees by fleeing to Baghdad.

"The city itself is not symbolic in any way," Dempsey said. "It's not been declared part of the (Islamic State) caliphate or central to the future of Iraq, but we want to get it back. The issue here is not brick and mortar, it's about defeating ISIL. I would much rather that Ramadi not fall, but it won't be the end of the campaign should it fall — we've got to get it back, and that's tragic for the people."

He called Beiji "a little different" because of the presence there of the oil refinery. Recapturing Beiji would give the Iraqi government control of all of the country's oil infrastructure and deny revenue-generating assets to IS, Dempsey said. Black market sales of oil and oil products have been a major source of revenue for the Islamic State, particularly in areas of Syria that it controls.

"So Beiji is a more strategic target and that's why in fact the focus is on Beiji," Dempsey said.

Al-Abadi told reporters Wednesday in Washington that Beiji is a priority for the counteroffensive because Iraqi forces need to have control of the road system north to Mosul before launching an offensive to retake Mosul, which is the Islamic State's main base of power in the north. □



Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, left, accompanied by Defense Secretary Ash Carter, right, speaks during a news conference at the Pentagon, Thursday, April 16, 2015.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

advancing Islamic State forces would be a tragic but not crippling blow to Iraq's counteroffensive, the top U.S. military officer said Thursday.

A more vital battleground is to the north at Beiji, home to a major oil refinery that the Islamic State group has been targeting for months, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey said at a joint news conference with Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

Dempsey said IS fighters, who already control the town of Beiji, have "penetrated the outer perimeter" of the sprawling oil compound. He said, however, that the refinery itself is "at

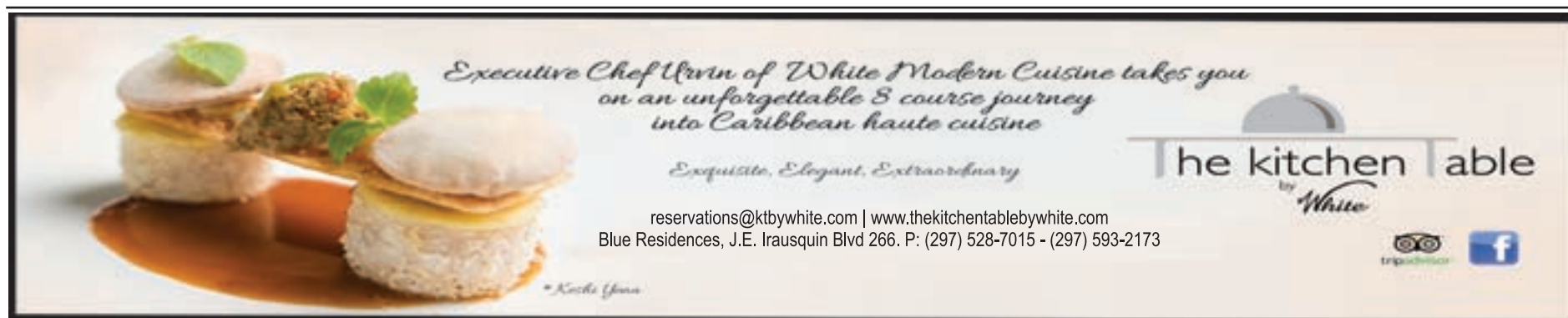
the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In its daily list of targets struck by U.S. warplanes, the U.S. military said Thursday that eight of 19 airstrikes in Iraq overnight were in the Beiji area. Two large and four smaller IS military units were hit there, as well as an IS mortar system, an IS fighting position and a vehicle. That followed nine airstrikes near Beiji the day before.

Beiji is north of the city of Tikrit, where Iraqi forces scored the biggest success of their counteroffensive by retaking control of the city earlier this month.

Dempsey indicated that he is more concerned

in on the city center and turning it into a ghost town. Dempsey, who served multiple tours in Iraq during the 2003-2011 war, said the latest IS advance on Ramadi is an indication that the Iraqi government needs to connect what he called "ink blots," or pockets of Iraqi government control across the Anbar province, in order to deny IS future gains. He said this was a topic of his discussions Wednesday with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who has been in Washington this week to consult on the counter-IS campaign and to request more heavy weapons from the U.S.



Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), center, confer before a Senate Finance Committee hearing, on Capitol Hill in Washington, April 16, 2015. Congressional leaders are ready to back the White House on trade negotiations with Pacific nations. From left: Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Cardin, Wyden, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Michael Froman, the U.S. Trade Representative.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Top US lawmakers strike deal to fast-track trade deals

LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top congressional lawmakers struck a long-sought, bipartisan agreement Thursday for the broadest trade policy pact in years, allowing President Barack Obama to negotiate trade accords for Congress' review and move forward with talks on a sweeping partnership with Pacific nations.

Obama quickly said he will sign the bill if the Republican-led Congress passes it. "It's no secret that past trade deals haven't always lived up to their promise," Obama said in a statement. "And that's why I will only sign my name to an agreement that helps ordinary Americans get ahead."

Chief among the challenges of passing the bill are divisions within the president's own party. Liberal and pro-business Democrats are

split over the deal's potential for creating or subtracting American jobs. Under the legislation, Congress gets an up-or-down vote on any such deals, but in exchange cannot make changes — a concern for labor, environmental and other interest groups.

The divisions hover over 2016 presidential politics, too, as Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton kicks off her campaign to unite the party.

House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner applauded the deal but said much of the burden of its success rests with Obama.

"He must secure the support from his own party that's needed to ensure strong, bipartisan passage," Boehner said in a statement that was echoed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

For Obama, the "fast track" legislation comes at an opportune time. He's negoti-

ating the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which proposes a trade agreement involving the United States, Japan, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico and seven other Pacific rim nations.

Labor unions and others say the Pacific pact would hurt U.S. job growth and encourage other countries to abuse workers and the environment.

The Obama administration rejects those claims, and says U.S. goods and services must have greater access to foreign buyers. One Democrat, Sen. Sherrod Brown, said the agreement marked only a start and could be derailed by amendments that might be added when lawmakers consider the bill in committees or on the floor. Brown and other Democrats who are aligned with organized labor are often highly suspicious of, or even hostile to, trade legislation. □

Obama could ease many Iranian sanctions without U.S. Congress

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even if the U.S. Congress rejects his final Iranian nuclear deal, President Barack Obama could use his executive pen to offer Tehran a hefty portion of sanctions relief on his own.

Lawmakers have insisted on having a say on what could be a historic accord that the U.S. and five other nations are trying to finalize with Iran.

The aim is to prevent the Islamic state from developing nuclear weapons, while in return Iran would get a break from U.S., European and U.N. sanctions that are choking its economy.

Negotiators are working to complete a final deal by the end of June. Talks will resume next week in Vienna, it was announced Thursday.

In the meantime, legislation is expected to pass both the Senate and House that would block Obama from using his current authority to waive congressional sanctions against Iran for at least 30 days after any final agreement, to give lawmakers time to weigh in.

However, even if Congress rejected a final agreement, Obama could take unilateral actions that — when coupled with European and U.N. sanctions relief — would allow a deal with Tehran to be implemented.

The president could suspend some existing U.S. sanctions with his waiver authority.

He could issue new orders to permit financial transactions that otherwise are banned under current law. And he could simply take certain Iranians and entities, including nearly two dozen Iranian banks,

off U.S. target lists, meaning they no longer would be subject to sanctions.

Only Congress can terminate its legislative sanctions. And those are some of the toughest penalties against Iran because they target its energy sector, central bank and key segments of its economy.

But experts say Obama can neutralize the effect of some of those sanctions, too, and work with the Europeans to neutralize others.

Treasury official Adam Szubin told the House last month that the Obama administration doesn't think congressional sanctions should be terminated for years to come — long after Obama leaves the White House — so that the U.S. continues to retain leverage over Tehran years into any final agreement.

But there's more to the story.

Says Tyler Cullis, legal fellow at the National Iranian American Council, which favors an agreement: "Some have expressed doubt whether the president can provide Iran significant sanctions relief solely on the basis of his own authority. Such doubt should be put to rest."

He said the president "could almost gut" an entire segment of sanctions by taking Iran's major banks off the Treasury Department's list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List. Those on this list face asset freezes, and Americans are banned from doing business with them. Moreover, many U.S. and foreign banks and businesses have opted to steer clear of those on the list just to make sure they don't violate U.S. sanctions. □

Ohio man accused of plot to attack US military base, prison



Abdirahman Sheik Mohamud, left, speaks with his defense attorney, Sam Shamansky, during a hearing to set bond on charges of money laundering and providing support for terrorism in Columbus, Ohio. A Thursday, April 16 indictment says Mohamud left the country a year ago to train and fight with terrorists in Syria.

(AP Photo/Andrew Welsh-Huggins)

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS AP Legal Affairs Writer COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

A Somalia-born man living in the U.S. traveled to Syria and trained alongside terrorists, then returned with plans to attack a military base or a prison, according to a federal indictment announced Thursday. Abdirahman Sheik Mohamud, a U.S. citizen originally from Somalia, wanted to "kill three or four American soldiers execution style," according to the indictment. Attacking the prison was part of a backup plan if that didn't work, the charges said.

The indictment also says Mohamud's brother, Abdifatah Aden, fought with Jabhat al-Nusrah, a State Department-designated terrorist group, until he was killed in battle in Syria in June 2014.

Mohamud, 23, was charged with supporting terrorism, supporting the same terrorist group and lying to an FBI agent by saying he was in Istanbul when authorities say he was in Syria. He also is charged with making a false statement involving international terrorism.

The government charged Mohamud under the laws

most commonly used since the Sept. 11 attacks to prosecute terror suspects. He faces up to 38 years in prison if convicted.

Mohamud was arrested in Columbus in February on state terrorism and money laundering counts. Thursday's charges were expected, and Mohamud will plead not guilty at a Friday arraignment, said his attorney, Sam Shamansky. He said it was too early to talk about the specific charges.

Mohamud became a U.S. citizen in February 2014, according to the government.

The government didn't say how it learned of the plot, but the indictment mentions two "unnamed" associates of Mohamud in the U.S. to whom he gave information about his activities, including a video of Mohamud carrying an AK-47.

One of them said he believed Mohamud was trying to recruit him to participate in the plot, according to the indictment. The government also said Mohamud made terrorism-related Facebook posts in 2013.

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, said the charges highlight the threat posed by Americans joining extremists overseas then returning home.

Events leading to Mohamud's arrest began around September 2013 when he communicated online with his brother over plans to also travel to Syria to fight, the indictment said. They later talked about ways Mohamud could support him financially, according to the government.

Mohamud told his brother of his desire to "join you in the high ranks as a Mujahid," or violent jihadist, according to the indictment. Mohamud told a colleague in the U.S. he was happy about his brother's death and said he "was next and would join Aden soon," the indictment said. A year ago, Mohamud bought a one-way plane ticket to Athens with a connection in Istanbul,

where he got off and didn't board his next flight, the indictment said. Instead, he ended up in Syria where he received training "including shooting weapons, breaking into houses, explosives, and hand-to-hand combat," the government said. A cleric then instructed him to return to the U.S. to carry out an act of terrorism, according to the government.

In 2012, a Somali immigrant to Columbus who federal prosecutors say plotted to attack a shopping mall was deported to Somalia.

Thursday's indictment is one of several recent cases involving people in the U.S., including citizens, accused of traveling overseas to fight in Syria. □

US Guardsmen accused of selling guns

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Two members of the U.S. National Guard in San Diego County were arrested Wednesday and charged with illegally selling guns, ammunition and body armor to an undercover federal agent posing as a member of a Mexican drug cartel.

According to a criminal complaint, Jaime Casillas, 22, and Andrew Reyes, 34, sold 10 guns, including four AK-47 assault rifles, and thousands of rounds of ammunition to the undercover agent. The complaint says some of the arms were mili-

tary issue and others were bought in Texas and resold in California.

They were sold in seven different meetings with the undercover agent, who made it clear on multiple occasions that he worked for a cartel and the guns were bound for Mexico, the complaint said. The defendants wore their military uniforms to at least one of the exchanges.

Reyes indicated that the body armor and ammunition magazines they sold were from military inventory, the complaint said.

The defendants got at

least \$13,000 from sales to the undercover agent.

Both men work in the Army National Guard Armory in La Mesa and were arrested Wednesday — Casillas during a traffic stop in El Cajon and Reyes at his home in La Mesa.

They were indicted on charges of dealing firearms without a license and the unlicensed transport of a firearm.

Contact information for attorneys or associates of the men was not immediately available. The two are scheduled to appear in court Thursday. □

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'Suge' Knight ordered to stand trial; taken to hospital

**BRIAN MELLEY
RAQUEL DILLON
Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was hospitalized again on Thursday after a judge ordered him to stand trial on murder and attempted murder charges filed after he ran over two men in a parking lot. Knight's condition and the cause of his latest health problem were not immediately known, but it was the fifth time the Death Row Records co-founder had been taken from a courthouse to a hospital during proceedings in the case. The latest trip came after Superior Court Judge Ronald Coen rejected Knight's argument that he acted in self-defense when he was viciously attacked by men outside a Compton burger stand. Authorities contend Knight intentionally hit the men, killing Terry Carter, 55, and injuring Cle "Bone" Sloan.

Knight's attorney Matt Fletcher argued that his client was ambushed and was trying to escape from Sloan when Knight ran down the men in the attack captured on security video. "There's no intent to kill," Fletcher said in court while asking the judge to dismiss the case. "There's an intent to survive." Coen, however, said it appeared Knight, 49, wasn't attempting to flee but instead trying to kill someone when he accelerated forward in the truck. The judge did throw out one of two hit-and-run counts, saying the charge

applies to one event even if there are multiple victims. He also reduced bail from \$25 million to \$10 million. The lawyer previously said

Prosecutors played a statement by Sloan to police that offered a lucid, detailed account of the events on Jan. 29 that led

to invoke his right to avoid self-incrimination. Knight was a key player in the gangster rap scene that flourished in the 1990s,



Marion "Suge" Knight arrives in court for a hearing about evidence in his murder case, in Los Angeles. Former rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was hospitalized again on Thursday after a judge ordered him to stand trial on murder and attempted murder charges filed after he ran over two men in a parking lot.

(AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian, Pool, File)

Knight has diabetes and a blood clot near his lung. His fiancée, Toi Kelly, said before Knight was hospitalized that his health had been improving. The ruling came at the end of a hearing that focused heavily on testimony from Sloan, a former gang member who told detectives he attacked Knight before getting run over. Sloan said he didn't remember the fight and did not want to be a "snitch."

to the deadly encounter. Sloan's testimony demonstrated the difficulty in prosecuting Knight, who has gang ties and a reputation for intimidating witnesses. "I will not be used to send Suge Knight to prison," Sloan testified, adding that he was on the witness stand only because he was subpoenaed. He has known Knight for decades. Prosecutors granted Sloan immunity from prosecution after he said he intended

and his label once listed Dr. Dre, Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg among its artists. Knight lost control of the company after it was forced into bankruptcy. Sloan, an adviser on the upcoming film "Straight Outta Compton" about rap music, testified that he was trying not to think about the crash in which he suffered two fractured ankles, a serious cut to his head, two torn knee ligaments and a shoulder injury. □

Doctor testifies in death trial of Australia player

DUNCAN, Oklahoma (AP)

— The doctor who performed the autopsy on a college baseball player from Australia who was shot in the back while jogging in Oklahoma said Thursday that even immediate medical attention would not have saved his life.

"Apart from a miracle, no," said Dr. Inas Yacoub, a forensic pathologist with the state medical examiner's office, The Oklahoman reported (<http://bit.ly/1aBuod9>)

Yacoub testified in the first-degree murder trial of 17-year-old Chancey Allen Luna, who is charged with shooting Christopher Lane, 22, in August 2013, that he recovered a .22-caliber bullet from Lane's body.

"Despite being small, it damaged vital structures and caused significant bleeding," Yacoub told jurors, striking two major blood vessels, puncturing both lungs and breaking two ribs.

The victim's mother, Donna Lane, wiped tears from her face when prosecutors showed jurors a photo of the bloody T-shirt her son was wearing.

The prosecution rested following Yacoub's testimony. Defense attorneys acknowledge that Luna fired the fatal shot but say he was only trying to scare Lane, a native of Melbourne, Australia, who was in Oklahoma on a college baseball scholarship.

Luna is not expected to testify and the defense indicated it may call just one witness, Luna's mother, Jennifer Luna. She said outside the courthouse that she doesn't believe her son is guilty, despite his attorneys' comments to the jury.

"Those are court-appointed lawyers. If I had the money to get a real lawyer, it wouldn't go this way," Jennifer Luna said. "If my son did it, it wasn't on purpose. It wasn't meant to be. My son would never intentionally try to hurt somebody at all." □

California lawsuit seeks to legalize prostitution

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Advocates for California sex workers are seeking to legalize the world's oldest profession. A federal lawsuit filed March 4 seeks to strike down the California law criminalizing prostitution as an unconstitutional violation of equal protection and free speech rights. The lawsuit alleges that California's criminalizing of prostitution deprives sex workers

or their right to participate in a private, consensual activity. "The rights of adults to engage in consensual, private sexual activity (even for compensation) is a fundamental liberty interest," the lawsuit states. The lawsuit was filed by the San Francisco-based advocacy group Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project along with three women

who say they want to work legally as prostitutes in California. A disabled man who says he wants to legally pay for sex is also a plaintiff. D. Gill Sperlein, the lawyer representing the plaintiffs, said legalizing prostitution will also make sex workers safer. "Social science clearly demonstrates that the criminalization of prostitution puts sex workers at risk of abuse because it discour-

ages them from reaching out to law enforcement," he said in a prepared statement. California formally outlawed prostitution in 1961. The California Attorney General's office didn't return a call for comment. The group says it raised \$30,000 last year to hire an attorney and file the lawsuit. It's seeking an additional \$30,000 to pay for the continued litigation. □



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Don't panic, college seniors: Jobs for grads likely to grow

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The consulting and accounting firm EY is aggressively recruiting on college campuses this spring. The company formerly known as Ernst & Young plans to hire 9,000 graduates from U.S. universities this year, up from 7,500 in 2014. But recruiting isn't as easy as it used to be.

"I'm seeing a lot more competition" from rival employers, says Dan Black, EY's Americas recruiting leader.

That's good news for college seniors and graduate students preparing to accept diplomas this spring, and a sign that new graduates will fare better than they did in 2014. The Labor Department reported on Thursday that the unemployment rate for Americans in their 20s who received a four-year or advanced degree last year rose to 12.4 percent from 10.9 percent in 2013.

"This is a real breakout year," said Philip Gardner, director of Michigan State University's Collegiate Employment Research Institute.

In a survey of employers last fall, the employment center found that hiring of graduates with four-year degrees will rise 16 percent this year.

"It's led by the ones you would expect — engineering and business," Gardner said. "But there seems to be a lot of room for everybody... Even arts and humanities are making a comeback."

Employers have more openings to fill because Baby Boomers are retiring and more workers are feeling confident enough about the economy to

switch jobs. Overall, the United States generated 3.1 million jobs last year, the most since 1999. The overall unemployment rate has fallen to 5.5 percent in March from 6.7 percent at the end of 2013.

Tyler Etten, 22, had a \$54,000-a-year job in finance waiting for him when he graduated from Iowa State University in May 2014. Three months later, he bounced to an even better job with the investment firm Piper Jaffray in Minneapolis. His 3.5 grade point average helped. But Etten says he set himself apart by getting internships, participating in campus clubs and spending his spare time learning financial modeling and advanced Excel skills.

"A degree is not enough with record amounts of people graduating from college," he said. In particular, employer demand for so-called STEM graduates — in science, technology, engineering and mathematics — is high.

"We can't graduate enough engineers," said Holly Proffitt, employer relations coordinator in the career services office at Arkansas State University. Still, many recent college grads are struggling and have yet to enjoy a full recovery from the dark days of the Great Recession.

In a report last year, researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco found that wages for recent college graduates haven't kept up with overall wages since the Great Recession. Between 2007 and 2014, median wages for all full-time workers rose 15 percent. For recent college grads, they rose just 6 percent. The same thing



Record clerk Josh Kelly wipes a dust speck from a used LP record as he put it in a sales bin at Vintage Vinyl Records Tuesday, April 14, 2015, in Fords, N.J. A recent Rutgers graduate, Kelly is working at the record store and living with friends while he tries to land a job in journalism or radio programming.
(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

happened after the 2001 recession: College grads' wages lagged behind everyone else's as the econ-

omy recovered, the report said.

The Michigan State survey found that 62 percent of

employers were planning to keep starting wages flat for college grads compared to last year; 37 percent planned to increase starting salaries. The increases tended to range from 3 percent to 5 percent.

Elizabeth Earl, 22, landed a job at a health care trade publication after graduating from Columbia College Chicago in December. The pay is low and the work tedious, but she's relieved she has a job.

"By the time you get out, you assume you'll be a barista," she said. "It's not idyllic nor at all what I want to do, but it is a job from which I can be getting paid while I consider career paths." □



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Thousands flee as IS group advances on Iraq's Ramadi



Iraqi security forces and tribal fighters pose for a photograph in central Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, April 16, 2015. Clashes between Iraqi forces and Islamic State militants pressing their offensive for Ramadi, the capital of western Anbar province, has forced more than 2,000 families to flee from their homes in the area, an Iraqi official said Thursday. (AP Photo)

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — More than 2,000 families have fled the Iraqi city of Ramadi with little more than the

clothes on their backs, officials said Thursday, as the Islamic State group closed in on the capital of western Anbar province, clashing with Iraqi troops and turning

it into a ghost town. The extremist group, which has controlled the nearby city of Fallujah for more than a year, captured three villages on Ramadi's eastern

outskirts on Wednesday. The advance is widely seen as a counteroffensive after the Islamic State group lost the city of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, earlier this month. Hundreds of U.S. troops are training Iraqi forces at a military base west of Ramadi, but a U.S. military official said the fighting had no impact on the U.S. soldiers there, and that there were no plans to withdraw them. The fleeing Ramadi residents were settling in the southern and western suburbs of Baghdad, and tents, food and other aid were being sent to them, said Sattar Nowruz, an official of the Ministry of Migration and the Displaced. The ministry was assessing the situation with the provincial government in order "to provide the displaced people, who are undergoing difficult conditions, with better services and help,"

Nowruz said. Sporadic clashes were still underway Thursday, according to security officials in Ramadi. Government forces control the city center, while the IS group has had a presence in the suburbs and outskirts for months. They described Ramadi as a ghost town, with empty streets and closed shops. Video obtained by The Associated Press showed plumes of thick, black smoke billowing above the city as fighter jets pounded militant targets. On the city outskirts, displaced residents frantically tried to make their way out amid the heavy bombardment. U.S.-led coalition airstrikes targeted the IS group in Sjarayah, Albu-Ghanim and Soufiya, the three villages the extremists captured Wednesday, the officials added. □

Al-Qaida's affiliate in Yemen seizes airport and oil terminal

SAEED AL-BATATI
KAREEM FAHIM

© 2015 New York Times

DOWAAN, Yemen - Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen took control of a major airport and an oil export terminal in the southern part of the country Thursday. The gains were the latest signs of the resurgence of the group, which seized the nearby city of Al Mukalla in early April.

Local officials said that fighters belonging to the group, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, took control of the Riyan Airport and a nearby military base outside Al Mukalla, the fifth-largest city in Yemen. The group also seized the Dhabah oil terminal on the Arabian Sea coast, a building that Yemeni officials

said the group had tried to capture before.

Al-Qaida is capitalizing on the expanding multisided war in Yemen and the collapse of its government to carve out territory for itself. When they stormed Al Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramaut province, they seized government buildings, looted the central bank office and freed hundreds of inmates from prison, including a senior leader of the group.

Al-Qaida's traditional foes in Yemen are largely in disarray or distracted by other fighting. Military units have melted away or put up little resistance as al-Qaida has advanced. The Houthis, a militia movement from northern Yemen that is considered al-Qaida's

most determined foe, have been preoccupied with battles against rival militias across the country, and their fighters have been battered by aerial attack from the Saudi-led Arab military coalition, which is trying to restore the exiled government to power. Saudi Arabia has focused on crippling the Houthis, leaving al-Qaida all but unopposed around Al Mukalla, though the extremist group was dealt a rare setback this week when a top advocate and several other members were killed in a U.S. drone strike.

With growing alarm over the extremists' gains and the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen, Khaled Bahah, a top official in exiled gov-

ernment, called Thursday for the Houthi movement to halt its military offensive as a condition for opening peace talks.

Speaking in Saudi Arabia, where the government has taken refuge, Bahah said the "language of reason and dialogue must be given priority." But first, he said, the Houthis must halt their attacks and "stop tampering with the destiny of the nation and destroying its institutions."

Bahah was appointed vice president on Sunday by President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled Yemen in March, shortly before Saudi Arabia began its military offensive.

Bahah, who served as Yemen's last prime minister, is widely viewed as a con-

ciliatory figure among the country's increasingly fractured and polarized political elite.

His appointment as vice president was seen as an attempt to bridge the divides fueling the war, and to provide alternative leadership to that of Hadi, who lacks any significant base of support in Yemen.

But a senior Houthi official, responding to Bahah's comments Thursday, told Reuters that the Saudi-led bombing campaign had to stop "immediately and without conditions."

The political deadlock has prompted increasingly dire assessments from international aid agencies about the toll on civilians in Yemen, a country that must import nearly all its food. □



Putin confident on economy, offers to mend ties with West

V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has weathered the worst of its economic troubles and is on the road to recovery, President Vladimir Putin said Thursday during a marathon call-in TV show, offering to normalize ties with the West if it treats Moscow as an equal partner and not a “vassal.”

He also defended the delivery of a long-range air defense missile system to Iran, casting it as a reward for Tehran’s flexibility in nuclear talks and vowing to continue working with global partners to reach a definitive solution to the country’s contested nuclear program.

Putin mixed promises with stern warnings and some humor during the carefully choreographed four-hour national broadcast, an annual affair intended to burnish his father-of-the nation image and secure his control over the Russian political scene.

His main message was that the gravest challenges are over and the slumping economy will be back on track soon.

He also made it clear that Russia wants an end to fighting in eastern Ukraine and is interested in rebuilding damaged ties with the United States and other Western nations. The U.S. and the European Union imposed sanctions on Russia over Moscow’s annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and accusations of supporting separatists in Ukraine.

At the same time, he reaffirmed his long-held criti-

cism of what he sees as U.S. aspirations of global domination, saying Washington must learn to treat Russia as an equal partner. “The main condition for restoring normal relations is to have respect for Russia and its interests,” Putin said, adding that the United States “doesn’t need allies; they need vassals.”

While Putin sounded confident and looked relaxed while discussing the economy and global crises, he appeared uneasy and tense while responding to questions about the killing of top opposition leader Boris Nemtsov just outside the Kremlin on Feb. 27.

Putin described the shooting death as “tragic and shameful” and commended police for quickly tracking down the suspects, but said he wasn’t certain if law enforcement agencies would be able to find those who organized it.

Five men, all ethnic Chechens, were arrested days after the killing. Investigators, however, have been unable to reach a senior officer in the security forces of Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov. The officer is suspected of involvement in the killing and reportedly has remained under strong protection in Chechnya, a region of southern Russia in the Caucasus mountains.

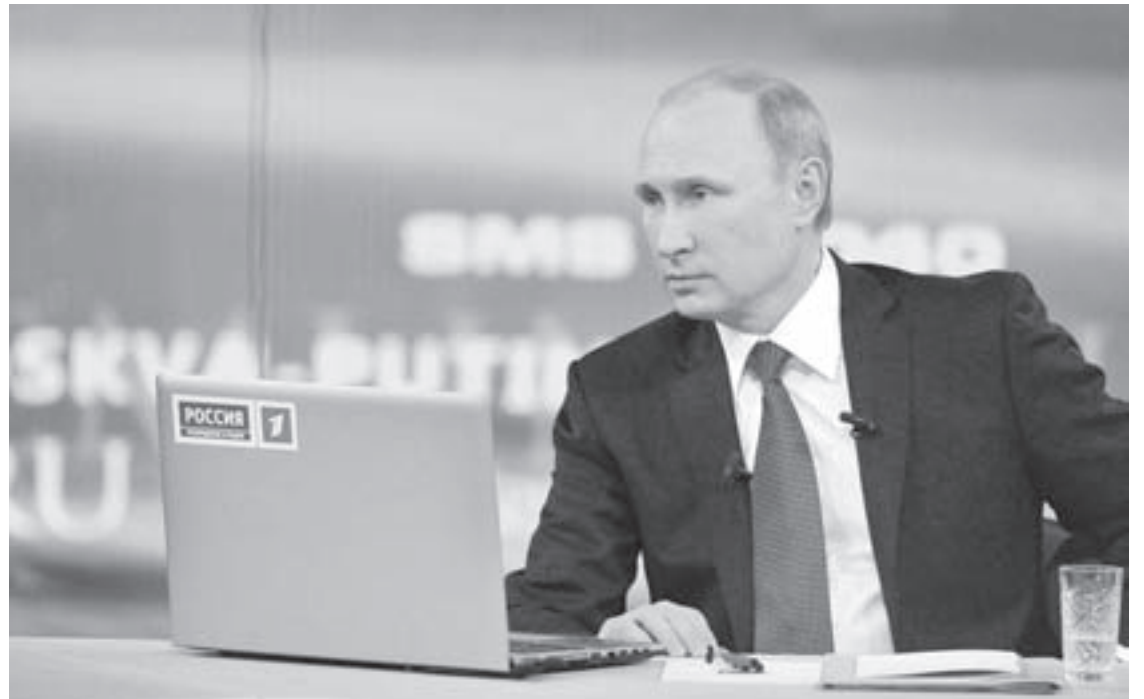
The investigation has highlighted tensions between the leadership of Russian law enforcement agencies and Kadyrov, who has relied on Putin’s personal support and generous Kremlin subsidies to stabilize Chechnya after two separatist wars. Some ob-

servers say the federal authorities’ apparent inability to question a suspect in Chechnya reflects limits to Putin’s authority and portends future threats to na-

preserve the current consolidation of society, we shouldn’t fear any threats,” he said.

Official estimates say Russia’s economy will shrink 3

great degree of flexibility and a desire to reach compromise” in the talks. He added the S-300 is a defensive weapon that shouldn’t pose any threat



Russian President Vladimir Putin, listens during an annual call-in show on Russian television “Conversation With Vladimir Putin” in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, April 16, 2015. President Vladimir Putin sternly urged the West to respect Russia’s interests in global affairs and defended his move to sanction the delivery of a long-range air defense missile system to Iran during a marathon TV call-in show with the nation.
(Mikhail Klimentyev/RIA Novosti/AP)

tional stability.

The slickly produced broadcast focused heavily on the economy.

He pointed to the ruble’s recent recovery — it lost about half its value last year — as a sign that the nation had gone through the worst part of the economic upheavals caused by a sharp plunge in global oil prices and the Western sanctions.

Putin, whose approval ratings top 80 percent despite the recession, said the country can overcome any challenges if it remains united.

“If we preserve a stable situation in domestic politics,

percent to 5 percent this year in the sharpest decline since 2009, but Putin said the slump would likely be less significant.

On foreign policy, Putin said his decision to lift a 2010 Russian ban on the delivery of the S-300 air defense missile system to Tehran followed a preliminary deal earlier this month on Iran’s nuclear program. The framework agreement on the deal was reached earlier this month between Iran and the U.S., Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany earlier this month.

He said Iran should be rewarded for showing “a

to Israel, and may in fact serve as “a deterrent factor in connection with the situation in Yemen.”

Putin appeared to signal that Russia has shelved a contract to deliver the same missile system to an unidentified “Arab country” following an Israeli plea, in what could be a reference to Syria.

Russia will continue to cooperate with its international partners on negotiating a definitive nuclear deal with Iran, Putin said, arguing that the sanctions in place on Tehran don’t ban the delivery of the S-300s, which Russia had halted voluntarily. □



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Greek bond yields soar as debt default fears swell



Miners shout slogans during a rally outside Development Ministry in Athens, on Thursday, April 16, 2015. About 4,000 workers at a northern Greek gold mine and their supporters staged a protest in Athens as they fear job losses because the governing Syriza party has fought the privately-owned mine on environmental and financial grounds. The issue is the most significant labor challenge the new radical left-led government has faced since its election in January.

(AP Photo/Yorgos Karahalios)

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Mounting fears of a Greek debt default sent the country's borrowing costs surging Thursday and prompted one prominent U.K. bookmaker to stop taking bets on the possibility of Greece leaving the euro.

The jitters were triggered initially by a report in the Financial Times that the Greek government recently made an "informal approach" to the International Monetary Fund to have bailout repayments delayed.

Unease was also stoked by evidence that the Greek government is shuffling around resources to cover costs and by pessimistic comments over the pros-

pect of a deal between Athens and its European creditors.

Perhaps the most dramatic sign that Greece's crisis is coming to a head was the FT report that the IMF persuaded Athens not to make a formal request to delay repayments to the Washington D.C.-based institution next month. Greece is due to pay the IMF around 1 billion euros (\$1.06 billion) in two installments.

For investors, the report, which cited unnamed officials on both sides, was unsettling as it signaled that the Greek government is still a long way from convincing its European creditors about an economic reform plan that is needed to unlock the remaining funds in the country's bailout. □



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American wounded in shooting in Pakistan

SABA IMTIAZ

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KARACHI, Pakistan - A U.S. citizen was critically wounded in what was apparently a militant attack Thursday in the southern port city of Karachi.

The American, identified as Debra Lobo, 55, was shot twice in her car by two men on a motorcycle as she left work Thursday afternoon to pick up her husband and daughter, the police said. Lobo, a longtime resident of Karachi, works at the Jinnah Medical and Dental College, a private medical school, as the vice principal of student affairs.

"She was critically injured - one bullet hit her right cheek and passed out of the left, and another bullet was lodged in her right arm," said Syed Pir Mohammad Shah, a senior police officer for the district.

A little-known group calling itself the Daulah al-Islami-

yyah claimed responsibility for the attack. The gunmen appeared to have scattered leaflets in English and Urdu at the site of the attack.

Titled "We Will Burn America," the typed notes claim to be from "Lions of Daulah al-Islamiyyah, the Falcons of our Caliph" and state that they had "killed this Kansas lady 'Lobo.'"

The group said the attack was retaliation for the deaths of five "fellow fighters" in a paramilitary raid in Karachi's Kiamari area last week.

The police said that they were investigating the attack on Lobo, but that it was too early to comment on the group, which left similar threatening notes at a private school recently.

"It's too early to say," Shah said. "They call themselves Daulah, like ISIS, but these typed letters seem very crude. We still need to ver-

ify this."

The Arabic name of ISIS, also known as the Islamic State, is Dawla al-Islamiya fil-Iraq wa al-Sham.

Arif Rafiq, an adjunct fellow at the Middle East Institute, said the pamphlets suggested "that the attackers may have come from a loose jihadi network or a terrorist group like Jundullah that operates in a gray zone between a declining al-Qaida and upstart ISIS." The police said Lobo has lived in Karachi since 1995 and has a master's degree in public health. She has two daughters, and her husband works at the Karachi American School, a private international school in Karachi.

Drawing on conversations with Lobo's husband and colleagues, the police said there was no indication that Lobo had received any threats from militants or extortionists. □



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A leading candidate in Argentina would overhaul economy

PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The man who could be Argentina's next president wants to put an end to tight government currency controls, make peace with the nation's creditors and improve severely frayed ties to the United States. In short, Mauricio Macri is promising to undo much of what President Cristina Fernandez and her late husband Nestor Kirchner created over the past 13 years. It's a platform that appears to be gaining traction. The right-leaning Buenos Aires mayor leads many polls ahead of the October elections. His popularity is buoyed by economic frustration and widespread anger over the mysterious death of federal prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who accused Fernandez of protecting those responsible for Argentina's most serious terror attack. Macri believes pro-market reforms will restore confidence in Argentina, both



Presidential candidate Mauricio Macri, right, poses for photos with supporters as he campaigns in Mendoza, Argentina, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Macri is promising to undo much of what President Cristina Fernandez and her late husband Nestor Kirchner created over the past 13 years, a platform that appears to be gaining traction ahead of the October elections.

(Jose Gutierrez/Diario Los Andes via AP)

at home and abroad. Those themes are resonating: A handful of polls conducted in March gave him single-digit leads, a big change from six months ago when he consistently came in third. Macri says if he is elected,

he would move quickly to lift restrictions on Argentines' ability to trade pesos for U.S. dollars. But critics warn against doing too much, too fast. Lifting currency controls overnight could unleash a financial "bloodbath," ac-

cording to former Central Bank President Aldo Pignatelli.

Economists say ending currency controls would require at least two other major changes: shoring up foreign reserves by taking on more debt, and devaluing the peso to bring it to true market value. Macri has not waded into the policy details of a devaluation, but has repeatedly said Argentina must negotiate with a group of hold-out creditors, which would allow the country to access international debt. Such proposals are frightening for many in a nation still spooked by a \$100 billion default in 2001 that came amid an economic collapse.

Continued on Page 27

Chile:

Students protest, demand education reform

EVA VERGARA

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Thousands of students marched through the streets of Chile's capital Thursday to protest recent corruption scandals and to complain about delays in a promised education overhaul. Police said about 20,000 people took part, while student organizers estimated the crowd at about 150,000. The gathering was largely peaceful, but violence broke out at the end when small bands of hooded protesters threw rocks

and gasoline bombs at police. Authorities said seven police officers had minor injuries and 134 protesters were taken into custody. Past student marches focused on pressuring President Michelle Bachelet to fulfill her campaign promise of education reform. Students now say they are fed up waiting for changes and are disgusted by a series of corruption scandals involving politicians and the business elite. The scandals include a controversy over a bank loan involving Bachelet's

son and campaign financing involving right-wing politicians and a prominent financial company. Another tax-related election-financing scandal at Chilean SQM mining company forced the resignation of its chief executive. "We need to protest against this caste of corrupt politicians and businessmen who are involved and who are not ruling for a majority, and instead they're cooking up the reforms behind four walls," said Aurora Isidora Rozas, a spokeswoman for the coordinating assembly of high school students. □

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Arrest of party treasurer could affect Brazil president

STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The arrest of the high-profile treasurer of Brazil's governing party has brought the unfolding corruption scandal at the country's state-owned oil company uncomfortably close to President Dilma Rousseff, analysts said Thursday.

It could also intensify calls for the impeachment of Rousseff, who has always denied any knowledge of the kickback scheme at Petrobras but was targeted by huge protests across Brazil on Sunday decrying corruption.

According to federal prosecutors, big construction and engineering firms paid at least \$800 million in bribes and other funds in return for inflated contracts with Petrobras, which is Brazil's biggest company. Part of that money allegedly went to the governing Workers Party and other parties for political campaigns.

Joao Vaccari Neto, the party treasurer who was arrested Wednesday, has been charged with corruption and money laundering in connection with the scheme.

Ricardo Ismael, a political scientist at Rio de Janeiro's Pontifical Catholic University, said Vaccari's arrest is a problem for Rousseff, "whose campaign involved large sums of money that he was in charge of obtaining."

Vaccari is the highest-ranking member of the Workers' Party yet arrested for alleged involvement in the scandal and "the question that arises with his arrest is if other party leaders knew of the scheme and were

involved in it," Ismael said. The analyst said Vaccari's arrest also could bring the scandal close to Rousseff's predecessor and mentor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has not been implicated in the scandal.

"He is very close to the former president and has had

have been charged in connection with the Petrobras case, and more than 50 politicians are under investigation. Among those are two former chiefs of staff to Rousseff, but Vaccari is seen as the closest figure to the president yet implicated in the scandal.

He wrote that the arrest will give members of the opposition ammunition for their demands that Rousseff be impeached. "There may be no legal arguments to sustain such a drastic measure, but so far it is the strongest argument the opposition has so far,"



Workers' Party's Treasurer Joao Vaccari listens to a question during his testimony to a congressional committee in Brasilia, Brazil. Police have detained Vaccari in connection with a corruption scheme at oil giant Petrobras. The treasurer and his sister-in-law were arrested at her home in Sao Paulo, early Wednesday, April 15, 2015.
(AP Photo/Cadu Gomes)

close ties with him for many years," Ismael said.

Hours after Vaccari's arrest, Workers' Party President Rui Falcão posted a message on the party's website saying Vaccari had stepped down as party treasurer. But Falcão called Vaccari's arrest unnecessary and expressed confidence in his innocence.

Vaccari has maintained his innocence, telling a congressional panel last week that all the donations made to the party during last year's campaign were legal.

More than 100 people

Rousseff herself, who was chairwoman of Petrobras' board during several years as the graft took place, hasn't been implicated.

Alan Gripp, one of the editors of the newspaper O Globo, wrote that the "biggest impact of Vaccari's arrest is symbolic."

"The embarrassment of the arrest of the man responsible for irrigating campaigns of the Workers' Party will make the government bleed at a moment when it felt that its wounds (caused by the Petrobras scandal) were healing," Gripp said.

he said.

Political commentator Eliane Cantanhede wrote in the newspaper O Estado de S. Paulo that "Vaccari's arrest is a dramatic event for the Workers' Party and Dilma, for it has enlarged the crisis."

"The impeachment thesis has gained strength and could lead to her resignation," Cantanhede wrote. Opposition Sen. Jose Agripino agreed.

"Impeachment, which until recently was an idea that was avoided, is now the order of the day," he told reporters. □

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

Pesticide used in USVI also used in Puerto Rico: AP

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Federal officials say an investigation has revealed that a toxic pesticide that sickened a U.S. family vacationing in the Virgin Islands also has been used improperly in Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that methyl bromide was improperly applied in various locations in Puerto Rico. Officials said they do not yet know where, when and how much was used.

The island's Department of Agriculture did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The chemical sickened a family of four from Wilmington, Delaware last month in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Two teenage boys went into a coma after being exposed to the pesticide, which was used at Sirenusa resort in St. John.

The EPA banned the chemical for residential use in 1984, primarily for health concerns. □

Cops: Quadruple slaying in central Jamaica complex

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaican police say three teenage boys and one man have been shot and killed in a public housing complex in central Jamaica.

The department says the youths apparently were walking along a roadway Wednesday night when two gunmen hustled them into accounting clerk Marquis Hamilton's apartment. Police said Thursday Hamilton and the boys were fatally shot when the armed pair's "demands were not met." Police did not disclose a motive or other specifics. There have been no arrests.

Last month, Police Commissioner Carl Williams said he was sending more officers into island hot spots to combat a worrying increase in killings. □

US tourist killed in watercraft collision in Cayman Islands

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — A cruise ship passenger from Virginia died when the personal watercraft he was operating collided with another one driven by a teenage tourist, authorities said Thursday.

The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service identified the man as Robert Cole,

31, of Virgilina, Virginia.

Cole and his female passenger were thrown from their rented machine when it collided with a personal watercraft operated by a 15-year-old from New York, police said. They said the Virginia couple were passengers on the Carnival Conquest cruise ship.

Carnival Cruise Line spokes-

woman Jennifer de la Cruz said the couple had rented the water craft independently and were not participating in a shore excursion sold through the company. The collision occurred Wednesday afternoon off Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach, the British territory's main tourism strip. The boy suffered a minor

injury to his nose. The name of the Virginia woman, who was treated and released at a hospital, was not reported by authorities, but the Virginia Gazette newspaper identified her as Amy Comer.

Police said the two survivors remain in the Cayman Islands and are assisting investigators. □



Team Aruba Heads to Bradenton With New Look

UNION, S.C. April 16, 2015:

At the end of the 2014 season, Team Aruba took possession of a brand new T&E Hauler. The new rig allowed the race team to operate more effectively at the track, increasing the productivity of their time in the pits. Just in time for the IHRA Southern Nationals the rig has been transformed into a beautiful rolling billboard.

One of the main objectives for Team Aruba is to promote their island paradise home. Their pit is always colorful and inviting with vacation literature avail-

able to fans. The Aruba.com Mustang is a beautiful picture of palm trees and clear ocean water. Now their hauler equally eye-catching, depicting an Aruban scene as it covers the thousands of miles to and from each IHRA event. "Our old trailers always had sticker wraps with tropical colors to match the island theme we try to promote," relayed Team Aruba driver, Trevor Eman. "We recently made a new design for this new trailer and the end result is simply stunning. The reason we wrap the trailer, and why it is so important

for us to do, is because when we do this and travel on the roads, we are traveling with the 'world's largest mobile billboard promoting Aruba'.

"Our trailer is so eye-catching that in the past we would drive down the road and get the attention of other travelers, who then get on their phone to look up Aruba and Team Aruba on Facebook and message us right away. That is the type of stuff we try to accomplish since Aruba is primarily dependent on tourism. The more we can promote Aruba the better."

This week, Team Aruba is traveling from their Union, South Carolina shop to Bradenton, Florida in their striking rolling billboard. As Pro Stock continues to regain familiarity and popularity with their IHRA home, Eman is looking for his first IHRA win. As always, the driver will wear multiple hats, promoting the One Happy Island throughout the weekend as well.

"We're very excited to be racing in Florida," add-



ed Eman. We hope to have some beautiful Florida weather, hope to see many fans and just simply look forward to a great weekend. We also look forward to seeing what the fans will think when they see our trailer and awning which is a realistic depiction of the beach scenery in Aruba. We want to in-

vite all the fans to come by and get some free Aruba giveaways at our information booth."

Watch Team Aruba live via the Webcast on IHRA.com. Follow Team Aruba on Facebook and Twitter. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! □



Mrs. Ede Cristina Torasso Honored as Distinguished Visitor of Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Author-

ity had the great pleasure of honoring a very special

lady as Distinguished Visitor of Aruba for her 17th consecutive visit to our One Happy Island. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honoree was Mrs. Ede Cristina Torasso from Rosario, Argentina, and the ceremony took place at the Art Gallery "Etnia Nativa Native Art" from the famous Aruban artist Mr. Anthony Croes who is married to Mrs. Torasso's daughter, Mrs. Silvia Croes. Mrs. Torasso loves Aruba very much because of



the wonderful and friendly people who live and work on the island, and for the beaches, nature, relaxation and of course for the great Aruban food.

The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Silvia Croes. □



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set views, fresh food and a delicious cocktail in hand! We promise you do not want to miss this, so clear your schedule and we will see you singing, dancing and swinging away to the tunes of musical star Jasper Taconis & friends. □ The entrance is completely free, as we welcome you to an amazing night. Unable to join us for this fun, entertainment filled evening? We will host another musical event Friday, April 25th. Jasper Taconis & friends will then treat you to another unforgettable live music event! For more information about tonight's event, please visit: www.bugaloe.com www.facebook.com/bugaloe





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What's so special about Sidebar, you might ask? Well, for starters, the restaurant menu offers a great variety. Breakfast will wake you up, lunch will make you sparkle with its specials. By the time dinner comes along you will be ready for an extraordinary appetizer, a superb wrap, a spectacular gourmet burger, a freshly caught local fish, a great salad or a tender steak. The menu covers all the bases as well as the outfield, with the stress on quality. Sidebar's chef is a miracle working in the creativity department, so you can always ask him to surprise you with his specials. Please note the unusual presentation of the dishes you ordered: the wizard is at work.

Sidebar is the newest restaurant on Aruba, and oh boy, it is a beauty! Unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome all of you.



Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy – the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

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At the Renaissance Resort & Casino:

Actress María Fernanda Callejón and husband Ricky Diotto enjoyed Aruba!

ORANJESTAD - Argentinean magazine CARAS recently visited Aruba for a special coverage. Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino was once again chosen as the ideal accommodation for two celebrities. Over the years celebrities and international media has shown great interest in Aruba. This was again proven with the visit of CARAS magazine accompanied by actress María Fernanda Callejón and husband Ricky Diotto.

The romantic 'get a way' in Aruba was documented. CARAS magazine keeps its readers up to date with the lives of Argentinean celebrities. Their visit to Aruba had a special purpose which was to announce María Fernanda Callejón's pregnancy. María Fernanda is a movie, theater and television actress since 1987. For Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino both, the visit of CARAS magazine and María Fernanda Callejón together with her



Ricky Diotto are of great value. Editor and photographer Mr. Federico de Bartolo was also present to ensure completion of the project. The couple visited various tourist sites of Aruba including the Renaissance Island where

they enjoyed the sunset and took some beautiful pictures. María Fernanda Callejón also wishes to film a special episode 'reality television' style to showcase her pregnancy. For the actress these are exciting times.

The CARAS magazine including Aruba coverage will be on the market in a few weeks. Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino thanks all those who in one way or another gave the guests an unforgettable island experience. □

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prise in its 3-cheese sauce. Each pasta sensation is tastily seasoned and served with garlic toast. Grilled Norwegian Salmon makes its way south to you wrapped in cedar paper and served with confetti rice. The sweet-yet-spicy barbecue sauce lends an all new fascination to a popular healthy meal choice. Grilled Mahi Mahi is always a favorite at Hard Rock Café as well. Comfy and cozy and oh-so scrumptious smoke house delights are our specialty and our chef never misses. Either alone or in a combo platter, our incredible Half Chicken or West Tennessee-style ribs are rubbed with just the right balance of spices and hickory barbecue sauce to make your taste buds dance. Kids love music and we love kids so the little ones have their own special menu. We look forward to you spending a whole evening with us at Hard Rock Café either comfortably seated indoors or delightfully seated outside under our canopy. We create our own special ambiance every night with Aruba's best live bands playing just the right tunes at just the right volume to really relax and enjoy. Please have your concierge make reservations at 586-9966. □





Jordan Spieth hits off the third tee during the first round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Thursday, April 16, 2015.

Associated Press

Jordan Spieth struggles in 1st round after Masters win

AP Sports Writer

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.

(AP) — It's been quite some time since Jordan Spieth had to explain a performance this poor. The Masters champion had a post-Masters letdown in the opening round Thursday, shooting 3-over 74 to end his run of 16 straight rounds under par. He blamed it all on himself — and not the two-day celebratory media tour in New York this week.

"I didn't drive the ball well, didn't particularly strike my irons well. My chipping and putting weren't there," he said. "It was just an off day." And the sort of performance that stands in stark contrast with how Spieth played the past month. He won the Valspar Championship, finished second at the Texas Open and lost a playoff in the Houston Open before capturing the green jacket and his first major championship at Augusta National.

Continued on Page 19



New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis dunks during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in New Orleans, Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Associated Press
Page 20

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Jordan Spieth

Continued from Page 17

It was a lot to ask of anyone to come back just as strong, let alone a 21-year-old who hadn't gone through it before.

"No excuses, I just didn't have it today," he said.

He better have it on Friday if he hopes to hang around for the weekend. Spieth stands eight shots behind Graeme McDowell and Matt Every, tied for the top at 5-under 66.

"Got a good feeling about tomorrow," Spieth said. "Feel like I got some swings in, got in somewhat of a rhythm and can at least go out and feel the shots."

Don't bet against the young Texan.

He got into Sea Pines Resort late Tuesday night after some 25 appearances and interviews in New York, including an appearance with David Letterman and seeing the view atop the Empire State Building. He acknowledged his prepara-

tion this week had suffered.

Spieth was greeted by a large gallery on the first tee, crowds five and six deep stretching cellphones to snap pictures and get video footage. "Way to go, Jordan," someone shouted after his tee shot.

The applause continued throughout the round and, while Spieth appreciated the sentiment, had difficulty concentrating on his game.

"I was upset about missing the green and then there was a standing ovation walking up," he said. "It's like, 'Thank you. I just hit a terrible shot. Thanks.' So it was kind of tough to find the balance there."

It was clear, though, this would not be the Spieth who tied the Masters' scoring mark of 18-under 270 set by Tiger Woods in 1997. He was in perfect position on the par-5 second, which



Jordan Spieth watches his drive off the second tee during the first round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Thursday, April 16, 2015.

played the easiest in round one, when he left his approach shot short and in the bunker. Spieth could not make an 8-footer to save birdie. He was short of the green again on the par-4 sixth hole, leading to the first of three bogeys — Spieth had just one bogey in his first 36 holes at Augusta National.

The wheels truly came off at the par-3 14th when Spieth hit into the water and

watched his third shot spin back about 15 feet from the cup. He made a double-bogey 5.

He hasn't had many days like this in 2015 — and neither had McDowell, who hadn't shot lower than 71 in his previous 12 rounds, including all four at last week's Masters when he tied for 52nd.

McDowell, though, found his game on the layout's tight fairways and small

greens. He had six birdies after an opening bogey to move in front.

"It was great to feel comfortable out there today, see my lines, hit my speeds and make a few putts," said McDowell, who has not won on tour since taking this title in 2013.

It's been a strange season for Every, who won the Arnold Palmer Invitational last month yet hadn't finished better than 27th in any of his 11 other events. He had birdies on four of his final eight holes, including a 50-foot chip in on the sixth hole and a 20-foot chip in on the seventh, to tie McDowell. Every stayed in the lead when he chipped to a foot on the eighth hole to save par.

"I'll take it any way I can get it," he said.

After Bae, defending champion Matt Kuchar led a group of five another stroke back at 68. Ian Poulter and former British Open winner Louis Oosthuizen were in a group of 12 at 69. □



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Pelicans grab last playoff spot in the West

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anthony Davis had 31 points and 13 rebounds as the New Orleans Pelicans earned their first playoff berth since 2011 with a 108-103 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday.

Davis, who'll make his playoff debut against Golden State, came through in the waning minutes with two jumpers, two blocks and two rebounds to prevent the Spurs from pulling off a 23-point comeback.

Tyreke Evans had 19 points and 11 assists, and Eric Gordon added 14 points for New Orleans, which had to win to make the postseason because Oklahoma City also won in Minnesota. The teams finished with identical records, but the Pelicans held the tie-breaker on head-to-head results. Jrue Holiday added 11 points, capped by game-sealing free throws with 9.5 seconds left.

Tony Parker had 23 points and Boris Diaw 20 for San Antonio, which needed to win to secure the second seed in the Western Conference playoffs. The loss ended the Spurs' 11-game winning streak.

THUNDER 138, TIMBERWOLVES 113

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Russell Westbrook scored 37 points in Oklahoma City's victory over Minnesota that was rendered moot by New Orleans' playoff-clinching win over San Antonio.

The Thunder needed to a win in the regular-season finale and a loss from the Pelicans to make the playoffs. Westbrook locked up his first scoring title to hold up his end of the bargain, but the Pelicans beat the Spurs. That means the Thunder will miss the playoffs for the first time since



New Orleans Pelicans guard Norris Cole (30) goes to the basket in front of San Antonio Spurs center Aron Baynes (16) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Associated Press

Westbrook's rookie season in 2008-09.

Andrew Wiggins had 23 points and six rebounds for the Timberwolves (16-66), who finished with the worst record in the league. They will have a 25 percent chance at the No. 1 draft pick when the NBA lottery is held on May 19.

NETS 101, MAGIC 88

NEW YORK (AP) — Brooklyn clinched the final Eastern Conference playoff spot, beating Orlando and getting help when Memphis knocked off Indiana.

The Nets and Pacers tied at 38-44, and Brooklyn earned the No. 8 seed after winning the season series. The Nets will visit top-seeded Atlanta on Sunday for their playoff opener. If Indiana won, the Nets would have missed the postseason for

the first time since moving to Brooklyn in 2012.

Rookie Bojan Bogdanovic scored a career-high 28 points for Brooklyn.

Nikola Vucevic had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Magic.

GRIZZLIES 95, PACERS 83

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Marc Gasol had 33 points and 13 rebounds as Memphis ended Indiana's playoff hopes.

Memphis earned the Western Conference's fifth seed with the victory and home-court advantage in a series with fourth-seeded Portland, winners of the Northwest Division.

Zach Randolph finished with 18 points for the Grizzlies.

C.J. Miles led the Pacers with 26 points, while George Hill added 20, but

Indiana was edged out by Brooklyn for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

WARRIORS 133, NUGGETS 126

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Klay Thompson scored 25 points before resting in the second half as Golden State wrapped up the best regular season in club history.

Starters on both sides rested most of the game, with the Warriors tuning up for the playoffs and Denver long out of contention. The biggest developments for Golden State, which secured home-court advantage throughout the playoffs a couple weeks ago, came on the out-of-town scoreboard.

The top-seeded Warriors (67-15) learned they'll face New Orleans in the first round after the Pelicans beat San Antonio to clinch a postseason berth. Game 1 of the best-of-seven series is Saturday in Oakland.

Denver (30-52) ended with a loss to the Warriors for the third straight season, including the first round of the 2013 playoffs.

ROCKETS 117, JAZZ 91

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden had 16 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in just three quarters for his fourth triple-double of the season as Houston never trailed against Utah.

Houston won the Southwest Division and got the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference when San Antonio lost to New Orleans a few minutes later. The Rockets will face No. 7 seed Dallas in the first round.

Harden's four triple-doubles this season are the most by a Rocket since Hakeem Olajuwon also had four in 1989-90.

Bryce Cotton had 14 points

for the Jazz.

MAVERICKS 114, TRAIL BLAZERS 98

DALLAS (AP) — Tyson Chandler had 22 points and 15 rebounds as Dallas beat Portland.

The Mavericks (50-32) have been locked into the seventh seed in the Western Conference for a week. They had to wait until the final night of the regular season to find out their opponent, which was settled with the Rockets' win over Utah and San Antonio's loss to New Orleans.

The Blazers (51-31) have the fourth seed as Northwest Division champions but will open the postseason on the road against the No. 5 seed, either San Antonio or Memphis.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 19 points after missing two games with a left foot sprain.

CAVALIERS 113, WIZARDS 108, OT

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James sat out Cleveland's regular-season finale to rest for the playoffs as the Cavaliers rallied to beat Washington.

James spent the night dressed as if he was headed to a business meeting, not the postseason, and the Cavs only played their other starters in the first half. Matthew Dellavedova had 18 points and 12 assists for Cleveland. His two free throws with 9.1 seconds gave Cleveland a 111-108 lead, and Shawn Marion sealed it with a steal and dunk.

Martell Webster scored 20 points for the Wizards.

RAPTORS 92, HORNETS 87

TORONTO (AP) — Kyle Lowry scored 26 points and Toronto wrapped up the regular season with their club record 49th victory, beating Charlotte. □

NFL reinstates Adrian Peterson from suspension

JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The NFL has reinstated Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson on Thursday, clearing the way for him to return after missing

team said in a statement issued after the announcement.

Peterson was indicted on abuse charges after inflicting injuries on his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch. He played the opener

and fairness of the personal conduct policy.

The league essentially tabled Peterson's suspension in February after Doty's ruling, putting him back on the exempt list to allow the Vikings to communicate with

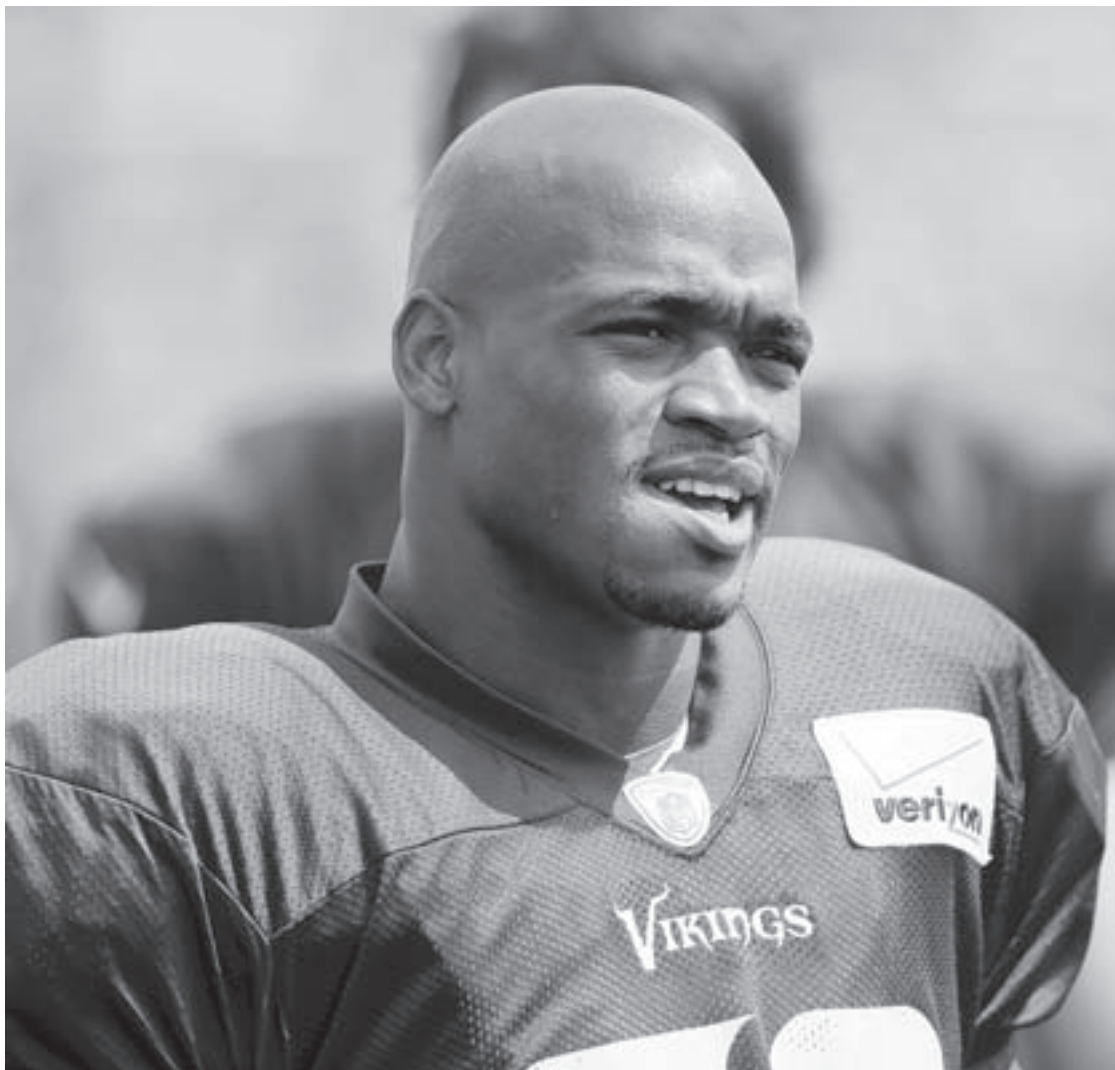
of sorts between the two sides.

"You make tough choices in life. We clearly understand he's under contract with the Vikings. After several discussions and much thought, I believe that it's not in his best interest to resume his career in Minnesota," Dogra said last month. "It might be best for all parties involved for him

to resume his career elsewhere."

Vikings general manager Rick Spielman has told Dogra he doesn't plan to release Peterson, who recently turned 30.

"They have not given us one compelling reason why it's in his best interest to remain as part of the Minnesota Vikings," Dogra said. □



This July 31, 2014, file photo shows Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson during NFL football training camp in Mankato, Minn.

Associated Press

most of last season while facing child abuse charges in Texas.

Commissioner Roger Goodell sent Peterson a letter advising him of his reinstatement. Goodell wrote that Peterson will have to fulfill all the obligations of his plea deal that reduced a felony charge to a misdemeanor.

Goodell also told Peterson he would have to continue attending counseling while adhering to the league's new personal conduct policy to avoid further discipline.

Peterson's agent has said the star running back wants to play elsewhere next season. But the Vikings say they have no plans to trade him. "We look forward to Adrian re-joining the Vikings," the

against St. Louis, then sat out the remaining 15 games of the season while tangling with the league over the discipline.

Harold Henderson, a league-appointed arbitrator, rejected Peterson's appeal and upheld the suspension in December. The NFLPA's petition in federal court to overrule Henderson was granted by U.S. District Judge David Doty, who ordered the appeal back to the NFL for re-arbitration. The league promptly appealed Doty's decision to a higher court. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals won't hear that case for months, so those proceedings will be merely for principle in the ongoing dispute between NFL owners and players over protocol

him, but the announcement Thursday means he's finally in the clear to take the field again.

The question, then, is what colors he'll be wearing this fall.

Despite several cordial meetings with Vikings officials, Peterson's public stance on returning to the only NFL team he has ever played for has been uneasy at best.

In his statement the day of Doty's ruling, Peterson thanked fans, the NFLPA, the union's lead lawyer and his agents but never mentioned the Vikings. One of his agents, Ben Dogra, took the stance a step further in March by declaring that Peterson no longer wanted to return to Minnesota, setting up a stare-down

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TINA FEY
DisneyNature
Monkey Kingdom
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [G]
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30
FRI 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30

KEVIN JAMES | RAINI RODRIGUEZ
PAUL BLART MALL COP 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10
FRI 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SAT 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10

XAVIER ATKINS | MARK LEWIS JONES
CHILD 44
MON-THURS 6:05 | 9:00
FRI 6:05 | 9:00
SAT 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00

SHAILENE WOODLEY | ANSEL ELGORT
THE DIVERGENT SERIES
INSURGENT
MON-THURS 9:30 [PG-13]
FRI 9:30 | 12:05
SAT 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 9:30

WILL FERRELL | KEVIN HART
GET HARD
MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 [R]
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER
FURIOUS 7
ON TWO SCREENS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION [PG-13]
MON-THURS 5:15 | 8:15
FRI 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SAT 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:30 | 7:30
FRI 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SAT 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30

JIM PARSONS | RIHANNA
THE HOME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION [PG]
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

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Federer loses in 3rd round at Monte Carlo Masters

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Roger Federer and Stan Wawrinka both exited the Monte Carlo Masters in the third round Thursday, and Rafael Nadal continued his road to recovery by overcoming John Isner in three sets. Federer, who played his first tournament in nearly four weeks, made too many mistakes in a 6-4, 7-6 (5) loss to Gael Monfils after Wawrinka — the defending champion — was routed 6-1, 6-2 by Grigor Dimitrov. "It's the very beginning of the clay-court season. It's going to take me some time to feel 100 percent comfortable," the second-ranked Federer said. "Not many guys are perfect this week."

Nadal might not be at his best yet, but his fighting spirit remains intact. The eight-time Monte Carlo champion, who arrived with a big question mark surrounding his form, came out on top of a tense match with the big-serving Isner to reach the quarterfinals with a 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-3 win.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic enjoyed another stroll and extended his winning streak to 14 matches, defeating Andreas Haider-Maurer 6-4, 6-0 to set-up a

quarterfinal match against Marin Cilic.

Federer has changed his schedule this season to allow more time for training and was not expecting to peak early on clay. He will now return to Switzerland to do some more practice before tournaments in Istanbul and Madrid.

At 33, Federer's main ambition is to add more major titles to his glittering resume. His quest for a second French Open begins on May 24 and he believes he has enough time to make the proper adjustments.

"It was a good week for me anyways to come here and practice with the best, play a couple of matches," said Federer, a four-time runner-up at the Country Club. "At least it gives me some information, if I'm trying to be a bit positive right now."

After they traded early breaks, Monfils took advantage of Federer's consecutive forehand errors to break in the ninth game and he served out the set on his first occasion.

Federer's charges to the net in a tight second set were loudly cheered by the fans but his lack of consistency from the baseline proved decisive. He failed to build on a 5-3 lead in the tiebreaker, losing the final



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts during his match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament against Gael Monfils of France, in Monaco, Thursday, April 16, 2015. Federer was defeated by Monfils.

Associated Press

four points.

"I never felt like things were really happening the way I wanted them to be going during the whole match," Federer said. "The way I felt at 53 sort of showed how I really felt, I guess."

It was Monfils's second consecutive win on clay over the 17-time Grand Slam champion after he beat him in straight sets during last year's Davis Cup final, and Federer's earliest loss in Monte Carlo since 2009.

"I'm surprised I was able to increase my power so quickly," said Monfils, who recovered from a hip injury

he picked up in Miami. "I was able to hit hard from the baseline, to be aggressive. I'm very pleased with the match."

Against Isner, Nadal showed the grit and patience that have defined his 10-year reign on clay. The nine-time French Open champion waited until the middle of the third set to secure a break after withstanding an avalanche of aces and groundstrokes delivered by the 15th-seeded American.

"I lost in three sets in Rio. I lost in three sets in Indian Wells. I lost in three sets in

Miami," Nadal said. "So to break this streak of three-set losses was important."

Nadal, who dropped to fifth in the rankings after his poor start to the season, fended off two set points in the tiebreaker but was broken in the ninth game of the second set when he went long with a forehand. The turning point came in the fourth game of the decider, when Nadal earned two break points with a passing shot. He converted the first one with a thundering forehand winner and punched the air in his trademark celebration.

Nadal next faces clay specialist David Ferrer, who beat him at this stage of the tournament last year.

"He's one of the players who have been able to win more matches this year, so he is confident," Nadal said. "He is one of the best players of the world. He is a good challenge for me. I'm excited to play that match tomorrow."

The fifth-seeded Ferrer needed 2 ½ hours to oust Gilles Simon 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-1. Earlier, Dimitrov capitalized on Wawrinka's awful display to advance, as the seventh-seeded Swiss got off a sluggish start and never found the right balance. □

Trout, Angels wrap up series with 10-2 win at Texas

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Mike Trout had three hits, scored twice and drove in a run to back another win in Texas for Hector Santiago as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Rangers 10-2 in a series finale Wednesday.

Santiago (1-1) allowed one run and four hits over seven innings, improving to 4-0 with a 2.15 ERA in five career starts at Texas.

Los Angeles scored six runs in the second off Anthony Ranaudo (0-1), who made his Texas debut while starting in place of injured Derek Holland.

Albert Pujols had a pair of RBI singles and David Freese added a two-run single for the Angels.



Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols, right, and Mike Trout, left, jog to the dugout after scoring on a David Freese single in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers Wednesday, April 15, 2015, in Arlington, Texas. The Angels won 10-2.

Associated Press

TWINS 3, ROYALS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kansas City became the last team in the majors to lose this season, as Kyle Gibson

pitched into the seventh inning and Oswaldo Arcia hit a two-run homer for the Twins in a victory over the Royals.

The Royals (7-1) were chasing the 2003 team's 9-0 start as the best in franchise history, but Gibson (1-1) used 12 groundball outs and three strikeouts to keep the highest-scoring team in the majors quiet for a night.

Edinson Volquez (1-1) struck out seven in 7 2-3 innings, with five hits and one walk allowed.

INDIANS 4, WHITE SOX 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Trevor Bauer (2-0) won consecutive starts for the first time in his three-plus seasons in the major leagues, helping Cleveland stop a four-game losing streak, Making his 36th big league start, Bauer (2-0) gave up two runs, four hits and four walks in six innings with

eight strikeouts. Cody Allen struck out Jose Abreu with two on and two outs in the ninth for his second save.

John Danks (0-2) gave up four runs — three earned — and six hits in 4 2-3 innings.

ORIOLES 7, YANKEES 5

BALTIMORE (AP) — Jonathan Schoop homered to spark a five-run sixth inning and Chris Davis had three RBIs as the Orioles defeated the Yankees.

Manny Machado hit his first home run of the season and Caleb Joseph went 3 for 4 with an RBI for the Orioles, who took two of three from New York.

Alex Rodriguez homered for the Yankees, his second following a yearlong drug suspension. □

New video-streaming apps turn TV stars into phone friends

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — “Scandal” star Joshua Malina has a brand-new video gig. So do “Today” weathercaster Al Roker, “NBC Nightly News” anchor Lester Holt and CNN media correspondent Brian Stelter.

Now viewers can catch a glimpse of them, along with such programs as “Late Night” and “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” in a new way — live, impromptu and often charmingly artisanal.

And they’re not the only ones.

It seems like only yesterday (and pretty much was) that Periscope and Meerkat burst on the scene, live video-streaming apps that work on iPhones.

Suddenly, everyone, from Jimmy Fallon and Tyra Banks to, well, someone like you can stream live video. And Periscope users can upload their video streams for on-demand playback over the next 24 hours. No longer will your public, such as it is, be deprived of watching you in real time doing whatever you do as conveyed by your phone.

(And what a few of you may do, or try, is sharing copyrighted material — like the wildly popular HBO fantasy drama “Game



This Tuesday, April 14, 2015 photo released by Joshua Malina shows the “Scandal” actor interacting with fans using Periscope in his trailer in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

of Thrones,” which was carried on Periscope accounts by pirating users holding their iPhones up to their TV screens. HBO sent “take down notices” to the Twitter-owned Periscope, which said it complies with U.S. copyright law and will respond to valid requests.) While viewers watch what you “broadcast,” they can respond to you with instant text messages.

If that’s not sufficiently wondrous (or appalling — yes, at least one person has broadcast live from his commode), consider

what this means for the celebrity world, and for TV stars in particular, who suddenly have, in the palms of their hands, the ability to engage their fans through this newfangled brand of backstage video.

In the few weeks since these apps arrived, early adopters include “Late Night,” which has shared its band warming up; “Ellen,” which puts viewers literally behind the scenes while an episode is being taped; Roker playing Periscope host at the “Today” studio, and Holt, wielding his iPhone for

an anchor’s-eye view from behind his “Nightly News” desk.

So far, the audience for such meta-sightings seldom exceeds the low hundreds — a microscopic number by any television standard, but a hint of the potential for a service few had even heard of just a week or two before.

“Of course, the audiences are small. It’s a nascent world,” says Julian March, NBC News’ senior vice president of innovation and digital strategy. “But when audiences do en-

gage, they really engage. And you get that real-time feedback loop to understand who’s engaging, which provides a great basis from which to move forward.”

Among early efforts by Chris Hayes, host of MSNBC’s “All In”: Inviting fellow Periscopers into his office for an editorial meeting as he and his staffers discussed that night’s telecast while passing an iPhone like a talking stick.

“Those spaces are private spaces for a reason,” says Hayes, “and I don’t think we’ll be Periscoping our entire process every day. But it did seem like an interesting way to give people a window into how we go about making the show, and I think we’ll be doing more of it.”

Earlier this month, the Starz network wielded an iPhone and Periscope to capture the red carpet at its Manhattan “Outlander” premiere. At the peak, some 3500 viewers were on board. “It was a really good experience,” says Alison Hoffman, Starz executive vice president of marketing. “And if viewers are hungry for this level of ‘uber access,’ it doesn’t have to be limited to a produced event. We could use it for conversations with our talent. □

Yahoo chooses to stay with Microsoft in updated search deal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo and Microsoft will keep working together on Internet search, but Yahoo is getting more control over the how the search results are presented.

An agreement announced Thursday extends a search partnership that Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp. forged in 2009 while they were being led by different CEOs. Current Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer had the option of terminating the relationship under a clause triggered earlier this year.

The two are trying to chip away at Google’s dominance of Internet search-

es. They haven’t had much success so far. Google still controls two-thirds of the U.S. search market and holds an even larger share in Europe. Mayer spent 12 years helping Google build its lucrative lead in before becoming Yahoo’s CEO in 2011.

As has been the case since the companies formed their alliance, Microsoft’s technology will power most of the search results on Yahoo’s sites. In return, Yahoo will receive most of the revenue from the ads posted alongside the search results on its sites.

The original deal called for

Microsoft to pay 88 percent of the search revenue to Yahoo. The companies said their economic arrangement won’t change under the revised agreement.

The revised contract gives Yahoo more control over the how its search page looks and works. There will be a few differences in how the companies sell ads under the new agreement. Investors evidently don’t think much is going to change. Yahoo’s stock gained 15 cents to \$45.88 in Thursday’s afternoon trading while Microsoft shares added 6 cents to \$42.32.



This Feb. 19, 2015 photo, Yahoo President and CEO Marissa Mayer delivers the keynote address at the first-ever Yahoo Mobile Developer Conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Stock of online marketplace Etsy surges in trading debut

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The place where you can buy handmade dresses and crocheted dog costumes has a new hot seller: its own stock.

Shares of arts and crafts retailer Etsy surged in opening trading on the Nasdaq Thursday. After pricing at \$16 late Wednesday the stock opened at nearly

double that level, and hit a high of \$35.73 in morning trading. The stock finished at \$30 per share, up 87.5 percent for the day and valuing the company at \$3.33 billion.

The healthy stock surge shows that Wall Street has a big appetite for a well-known retail brand, even one that doesn't yet make a profit. Thursday was one of the biggest days for initial

public offerings so far this year, with party-store operator Party City and electronic trading firm Virtu Financial also making big debuts. "It's been a very slow IPO market so far this year and investors have been on the sideline waiting for a new name, especially a new name that's familiar," said Sam Hamadeh, CEO of research firm Privco.

Founded in 2005, Brooklyn-

based Etsy sells anything from a \$110,000 antique desk from the 1800s to a \$20 handmade antler pendant and everything in between. In 10 years it's grown from a scrappy startup offering craftspeople a way to sell necklaces and needlepoint online to a marketplace of 54 million members that generated \$1.93 billion in sales in 2014.

While it doesn't make a

profit — it reported a loss of \$15.2 million in 2014 — it has a very loyal customer base and room for revenue growth. The company says 78 percent of people who bought items on the site in 2014 were return customers. And although it has a reputation for being a grassroots site, its revenue model is becoming more like Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce powerhouse. □

Giving up an afternoon gain, US stocks close with tiny loss

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Netflix soared, big corporations turned in quarterly results, and investors welcomed

start of trading, followed oil prices higher in the early afternoon, then flipped back to slight losses in the last hour before the closing bell.

economic news will hit corporate profits. At the same time, big banks and other corporations have turned in better results than Wall Street expected this week.

index edged down 1.64 points, a fraction of a percent, to 2,104.99.

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 6.84 points, less than 0.1 percent, to 18,105.77, and the Nasdaq composite lost 3.23 points, also less than 0.1 percent, to 5,007.79.

Netflix said it added 4.9 million subscribers in the first three months of the year, better than any other quarter since the company started streaming video eight years ago. All told, Netflix finished March with 62 million subscribers around the world. Traders drove the company's stock up \$86.59, or 18 percent, to \$562.05, the biggest gain in the S&P 500.

Citigroup's quarterly net income rose as the bank trimmed expenses and legal costs, which compensated for a decline in revenue. The results beat Wall Street's estimates, sending Citi's stock up 81 cents, or 2 percent, to \$54.02.

The first-quarter earnings season is supposed to be the worst in years, with

analysts forecasting a 3 percent drop in earnings compared with the year before. The early results suggest things might not turn out that way. Earnings from more than seven out of 10 companies have come in higher than Wall Street's estimates, according to S&P Capital IQ.

The economic news out Thursday gave traders little direction. The Labor Department reported that the number of Americans applying for unemployment aid last week inched up for the second week in a row. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, edged up to 282,750, still close to the lowest level in nearly 15 years.

In Europe, mounting fears that Greece could default on its debts shot the country's borrowing costs higher. The latest jitters followed a report Thursday in the Financial Times that Greece made an "informal approach" to the International Monetary Fund to have its bailout repayments delayed. □



Party City CEO Jim Harrison, left, gavels a ceremonial bell to mark the start of trading of his company's IPO, on the New York Stock Exchange floor, Thursday, April 16, 2015. Looking on are Party City Chairman Gerry Rittenberg, second from right, and NYSE President Thomas Farley, center.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

new companies into the market. There was plenty of news, but major indexes finished the day just short of where they started. Stocks drifted lower at the

David Lebovitz, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management, said investors are trying to figure out if the recent run of uninspiring

"There's a bit of a tug of war right now," Lebovitz said. "So far, it looks like the earnings season is off to a decent start."

The Standard & Poor's 500

Blackstone reports sharp rise in profit in the first quarter

LONDON THOMAS Jr

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Blackstone, fresh off its real estate deal with General Electric, continues to mint money in its two largest areas of focus: private equity and global real estate.

In the first quarter, Blackstone's core profit - fees and its share of investment returns - grew by 169 percent, to \$1.2 billion, the firm announced Thursday. Over a 12-month period, core

profit stands at \$3.8 billion. Overall, assets grew by 14 percent, to \$310 billion, as yield-starved pension funds and insurance companies continue to funnel money to Blackstone to invest.

These types of profits and asset growth are rare on Wall Street today, and they underscore how Blackstone, a firm that Stephen A. Schwarzman founded as a pure private equity firm, has become a broad-

based collector of investment assets.

Even with last week's real estate deal with GE and Blackstone's growing influence in this area, the firm's core private equity business is also thriving.

In the first quarter, private equity profit was up 160 percent, driven by expanding fees and high returns from cashing out investments. Over the past 12 months, core profit for pri-

vate equity was \$2.3 billion, compared with \$2.2 billion for real estate, whose core profit doubled.

Private equity and real estate carried the firm in the first quarter as two other units, hedge funds and credit, did not show growth because of difficult markets.

Although first-quarter profit growth was led by private equity, asset growth - a more crucial financial met-

ric - was led by the real estate division, which is overseen by Jonathan D. Gray. Real estate raised \$16.4 billion in funds over the quarter, and at \$93 billion, it represents the largest segment of Blackstone's \$310 billion asset pile. Private equity is second at \$76 billion.

Blackstone said it would pay a dividend of 89 cents for the quarter, up from 35 cents a year in the period a year earlier. □

Smart Girls vs. Bombs



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2015 New York Times

Last fall, President Barack Obama slapped back at critics by citing what he called a foreign-policy success: Yemen. Oops. Yemen is now collapsing into civil war, with gains, so far, for both al-Qaida and Iran.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney probably had places like Yemen on his mind when he described Obama a few days ago as "the worst president we've ever had" and - incredibly - hinted that Obama may be a traitor who is deliberately weakening our country through his foreign policies.

"If you had somebody as president who wanted to take America down," Cheney told "The Hugh Hewitt Show," "it would look exactly like what Barack Obama's doing." Wow! By that logic, Cheney himself is a sleeper Iranian agent. Cheney helped oust Iran's enemy to the east, the Taliban in Afghanistan, and then replaced Iran's enemy to the west, Saddam Hussein, with a pro-Iranian regime.

Moreover, it was while Cheney was in the White House that Iran's nuclear program took off from just a few dozen centrifuges to many thousands.

Cheney also pushed for policies of torture, indefinite detention at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and over-the-top intelligence-gathering that repulsed our allies and tremendously weakened America's soft power. Cheney has served Iranian interests very well.

Foreign policy is hard, and politicians can err without being traitors - and Obama's foreign policy legacy sure looks healthier to me than Cheney's and President George W. Bush's. Obama has, at least, been extricating us from wars, while Cheney and Bush were dragging us into them.

But it's worth learning from mistakes, and we have plenty of bipartisan errors to learn from.

Since 9/11, we've responded to terrorism and insecurity primarily with military tools - particularly in the Bush-Cheney years, but continuing in a more restrained way under Obama. This approach had some success: It destabilized the al-Qaida mother ship in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it led to the rise of al-Qaida affiliates in the Middle East and in West Africa, and it empowered extremists worldwide. As I see it, after 9/11, we systematically overused military tools and underemployed two other kinds of tools - education and women's empowerment. These

work agonizingly slowly, but over time, they help change societies.

"Development has to be part of conflict prevention," notes Jim Yong Kim, the president of the World Bank. In other words, economic development isn't just a soft, squishy feel-good initiative; it's a national security imperative.

Education is also a bargain. For the cost of deploying a single U.S. soldier abroad for a year, we can start more than 20 schools. In Afghanistan, where we did support education for girls, hundreds of Afghan women helped lead a march against religious extremism last month after the beating death of a woman falsely accused of burning a Quran. It was a rare homegrown campaign for moderation.

The advantage of educating girls is also demographic. One of the factors most associated with civil conflict is a youth bulge in the population, the result of very high birthrates. To reduce birthrates, it particularly helps to educate girls: Every extra four years of primary schooling for a girl is linked to about one fewer child.

Empowering women isn't a panacea. Educated girls sometimes become terrorists. Women leaders often have been disappointing. But, on balance, girls' education reduces birthrates, expands the labor force, induces moderation and promotes economic growth rather than terrorism.

Terrorists understand this. That's why the Taliban throws acid at schoolgirls; that's why Boko Haram kidnapped more than 200 schoolgirls in northern Nigeria (think of those girls in the coming days as they reach a year in captivity).

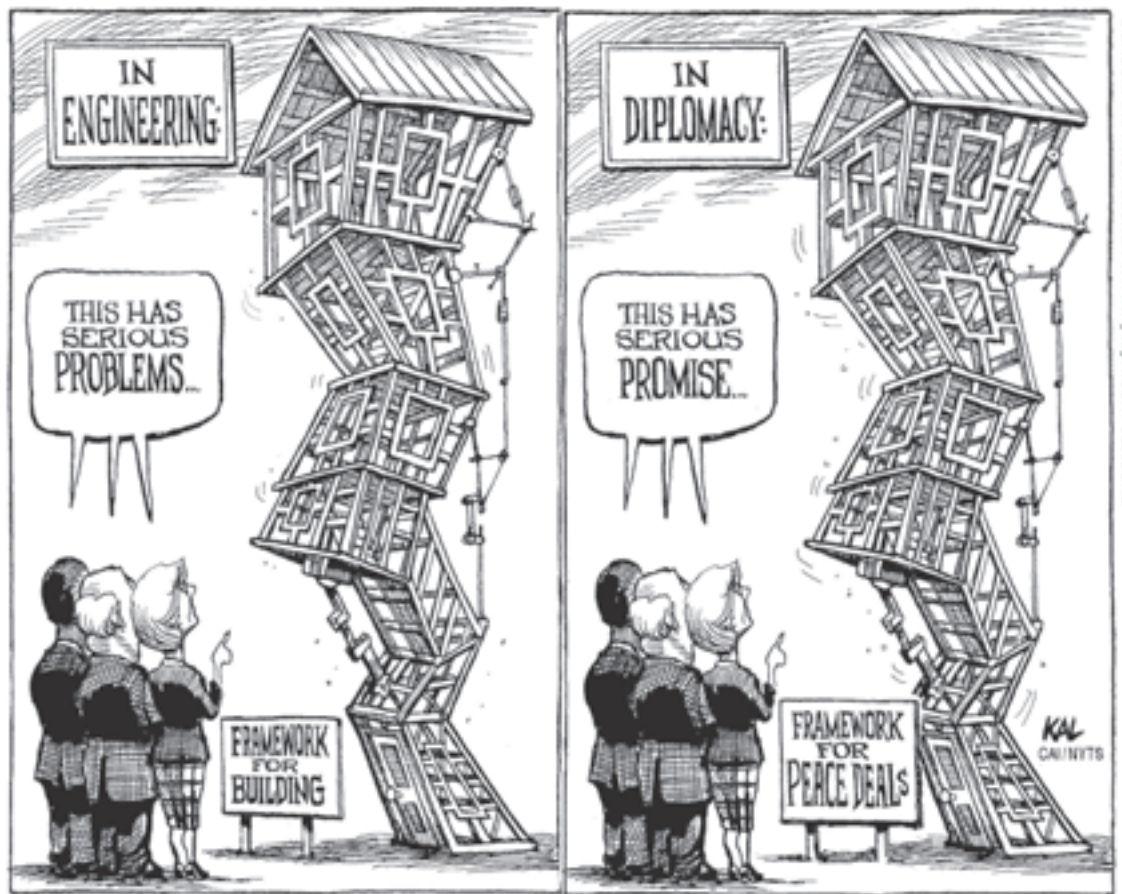
Obama's mother was an expert in global development, but it's not clear her son picked this up. When he was running for president in 2008, he proposed a \$2 billion global fund for education - but then dropped the idea.

The White House this year unveiled a "Let Girls Learn" initiative, spearheaded by Michelle Obama, to back girls' education around the world. That's an excellent idea, but it's minuscule: a requested \$100 million in new funding. Consider Yemen, where grenades were openly selling for \$4 each in a market near Sada when I visited. Rocket-propelled grenade launchers, \$500. Anti-tank mines, \$22. The Bush and Obama administrations both tried to stabilize Yemen by providing even more arms, many of which fell into the hands of Houthi rebels. So, lately, we've been helping Saudis bomb the very supplies we provided.

If instead we had invested in girls' education, it wouldn't necessarily have stabilized Yemen. But it could hardly have done worse.

So instead of pummeling each other on foreign policy, let's look for lessons learned. Surely one of them is that to counter terrorists, sometimes a girl with a book is more powerful than a drone in the sky.

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/NickKristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □



Remains From His Last Day



TIMOTHY EGAN
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Imagine him in the last week of his life, 150 years ago this month. Shuffling, clothes hanging loosely on the 6-foot-4-inch frame, that tinny voice, a face much older than someone of 56. "I am a tired man," he said. "Sometimes I think I am the tiredest man on earth."

Springtime in Washington, lilacs starting to flower. The Capitol Dome finally free of its scaffolding. His month began in triumph against the largest slaveholding nation on earth. Richmond fell and was set afire by its retreating residents. On April 4, Abraham Lincoln, with his 12-year-old son, Tad - his birthday! - walked the smoldering shell of the rebel capital, walked a mile or so, pressed by a throng of liberated blacks, to sit as a conqueror in the seat of the Southern White House.

"No day ever dawns for the slave," wrote a man who had once been owned by a fellow man. In Richmond, thereafter, all days had dawns.

On the dawn of his final day, April 14, Lincoln rises as usual at 7 a.m., breakfasts on coffee and an egg. He meets with his Cabinet, confers with an ex-slave, lunches with the unpredictable Mary Todd. They have plans to attend "Our American Cousin." In the box at

Ford's Theater that evening, a white supremacist fires a single shot from a Derringer. The bullet penetrates Lincoln's brain and lodges just behind his right eye. The most significant casualty in a war that took more lives than any other in the nation's history dies the next morning - the first president to be murdered.

Now think of the legacy on this anniversary of the American passion play. Think of free land for the landless, the transcontinental railroad, the seeding of what would grow into national parks, the granting of human rights to people who had none.

And think of how much the party of Lincoln has turned against the expansive political philosophy of Lincoln. Not the emancipation of 4 million people - Northern Democrats who died on southern battlefields, and certainly the Republicans who held power then, get their share of credit for ending the Original Sin of the United States.

But beyond: Could the Republicans who control Congress in 2015, the party of no, ever pass a Homestead Act? That law, which went into effect the very day, Jan. 1, 1863, that Lincoln's wartime executive order to free slaves in the breakaway states did, carries a clause that very few Republicans would support now. Former slaves, "famine Irish," Russian Jews, single women, Mexicans who didn't speak a word of English - all qualified to claim 160 acres as their own. You didn't have to be a citizen to get your quarter-square-mile. You just had to intend to become a citizen.

In that sense, the Homestead Act was the Dream Act of today. It had a path to citizenship and prosperity for those in this country who were neither citizens nor prosperous.

Consider the vision to stitch a railroad from east to west, an enormoustangle of infrastructure. In 1862, Lincoln signed legislation spurring construction of the transcontinental railroad. That

same year, he approved a bill that led to the creation of land grant colleges.

Today, Congress will not even approve enough money to keep decrepit bridges from falling down and has whittled away funds to help working kids stay in college. Government, to most Republicans, can never be a force for good.

In 1864, Lincoln signed a bill that allowed California to protect the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant Sequoias - wild land that would eventually become part of the National Park system. Republicans of today are openly hostile to conservation, a largely Republican idea.

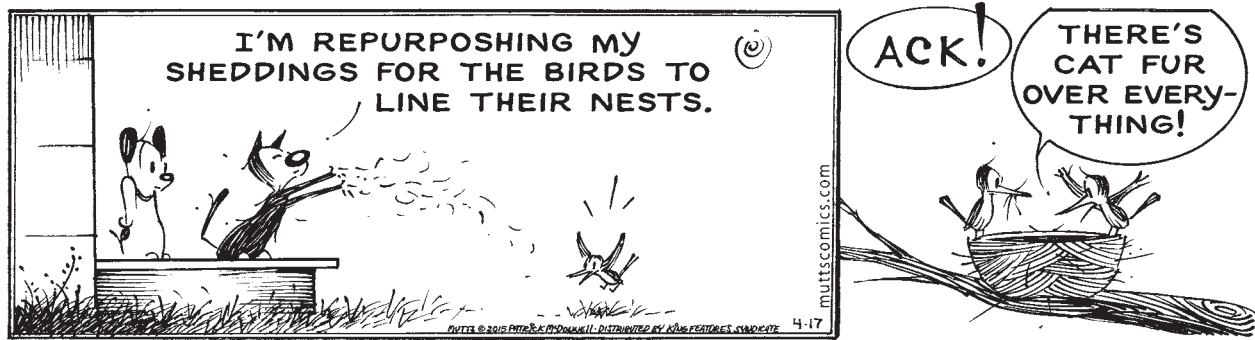
The great, nation-shaping accomplishments of Lincoln's day happened only because the South, always with an eye on protecting slavery and an estate-owning aristocracy, had left the union - ridding Congress of the naysayers.

Today, the South is solidly Republican and solidly obstructionist. The party is also solidly white. No, they're not slave-apologists, though many fail to recognize the active, toxic legacy of the Confederacy. And no, their insults of President Barack Obama - calling him a king, an incompetent, an outsider, echoing some of the slights against Lincoln - do not in any way make Obama the Lincoln of today.

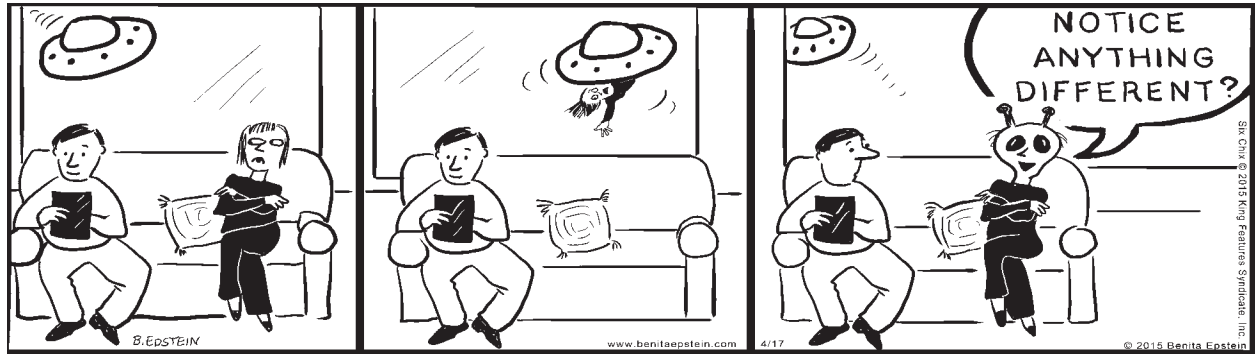
But you can say this with certainty: What unites the Republican Party, on this 150th anniversary of the murder of Lincoln, is that they are against the type of progressive legislation that gave rise to their party. Lincoln is an oil painting in the parlor, to be dusted off while Republican leaders plot new ways to kill things that he would have approved of.

Nothing in politics is static. Things will change. Party philosophies will flip, new alliances will emerge. What we know for sure again comes from Lincoln: "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history." □

Mutts



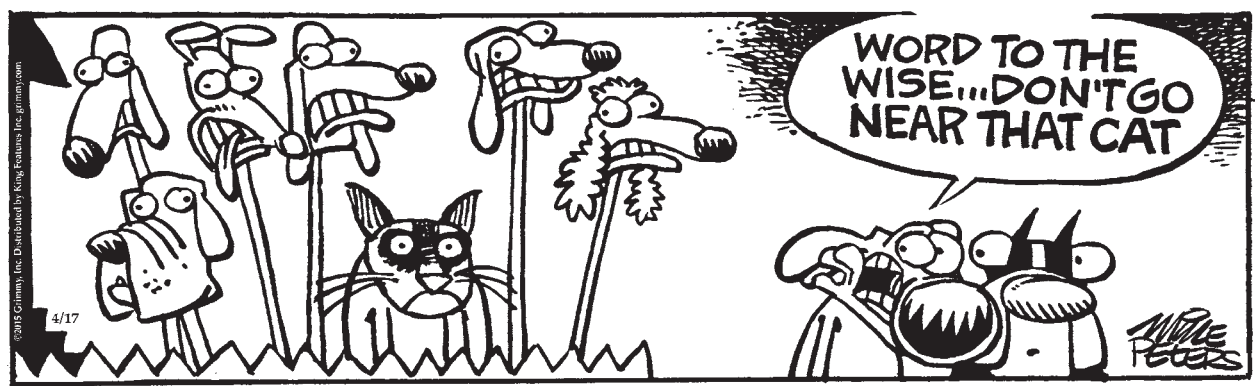
6 Chix



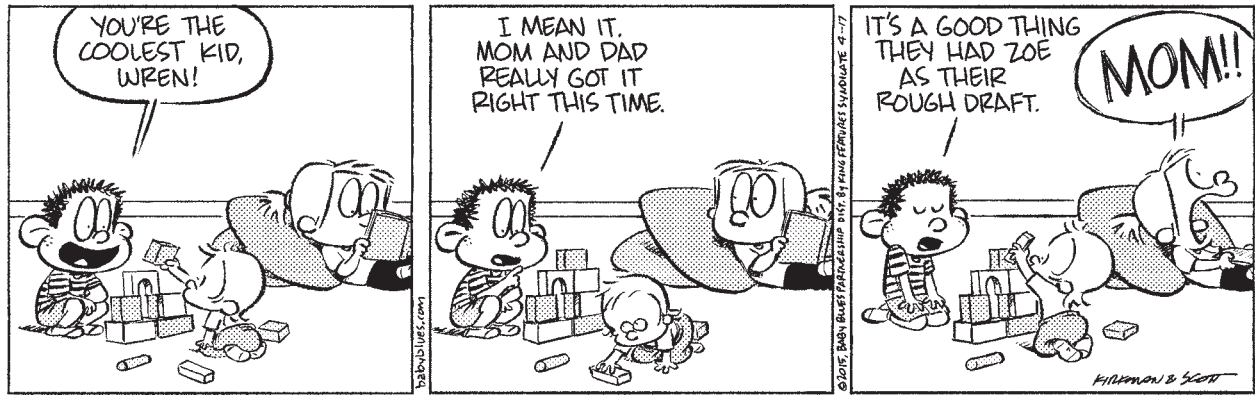
Blondie



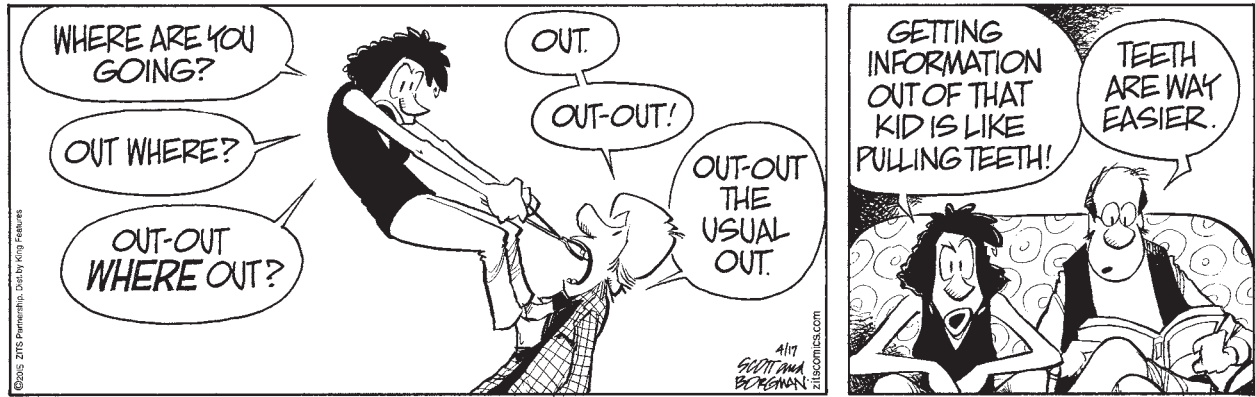
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8			3			6		5
				9				
1		7				9		
			2		7			1
	4			8			6	
6			9		4			
		2				5		4
				3				
7		9			5			2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	1	3	7	5	6	4	8	9
8	6	4	9	1	2	7	3	5
5	7	9	8	4	3	2	6	1
3	2	5	1	6	8	9	7	4
6	4	7	5	2	9	8	1	3
9	8	1	4	3	7	6	5	2
1	5	2	6	8	4	3	9	7
7	3	8	2	9	1	5	4	6
4	9	6	3	7	5	1	2	8

ACROSS

- 1 Type of birch
- 6 Astaire or MacMurray
- 10 Daddy
- 14 ___ up; make a mess of things
- 15 Bard's guitar
- 16 Elderly
- 17 Florida explorer ___ de León
- 18 Recitation by a kindergartner
- 19 Peruse
- 20 Thieves
- 22 King's son
- 24 Stack
- 25 Gave a helpful lift to
- 26 Arise
- 29 Small bit of cloth that covers a tear
- 30 Pal of Winnie the Pooh
- 31 Trait carriers
- 33 Actor Brian ___
- 37 Singer Vikki
- 39 AM/FM device
- 41 Miffed
- 42 Drive too fast
- 44 Food from heaven
- 46 Lowest two-digit number
- 47 Desert beast
- 49 Talks
- 51 Infuriated
- 54 Plant with fronds
- 55 "Alice ___ Live Here Anymore"
- 56 Driver
- 60 Has bills to pay
- 61 Slightly open
- 63 1970s Ford subcompact
- 64 First, second third or home
- 65 J.R.R. Tolkien's "The ___ of the Rings"
- 66 Two quartets combined
- 67 Peepers
- 68 Observes
- 69 Small stores

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24							25					
26	27	28				29						
30				31		32			33	34	35	36
37			38		39			40		41		
42				43		44			45		46	
47					48			49		50		
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/17/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

SAVE	DRAFT	AKIN
OVEN	RIDER	INTO
FEND	INDIA	LEIS
ASTOUND	SIAMESE	
	RFK	ATTHE
LASSO	FLY	ENACT
LUTE	NAB	NATURE
AGE	SEDATED	DAN
MEADOW	NOT	TICS
ARMED	AIM	BROKE
	PANDA	MIA
UNBOSOM	POOCHES	
MOOS	TIBIA	HERO
PANE	ERECT	EARL
SHED	SEEKS	ALSO

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4/17/15

- 34 Greek letter
- 35 Long journey
- 36 Egg layers
- 38 Court breaks
- 40 Beginning
- 43 "Phooey!"
- 45 Suitable
- 48 Iron & copper
- 50 Improve; adorn
- 51 Clay brick
- 52 "___, Jose!"
- 53 Waterbirds
- 54 Henry & Glenn
- 56 Colt's mother
- 57 5 ___ 20 is 4
- 58 Ladder rung
- 59 Little children
- 62 Actor Pesci

Argentina

Continued from Page 11

Overnight, many Argentines saw their savings evaporate and the country turned into a financial pariah.

Daniel Scioli, a ruling party front-runner who has tied or had a slight lead over Macri in some polls, has cautioned that change must come gradually.

While the strong hand of Fernandez's Justicialista Party helped stabilize the economy after it took power in 2003, Argentina's recovery has stalled, struggling with inflation that private economists put at over 30 percent, capital flight and increasingly frosty relations with many trading partners, including the U.S.

Fernandez's government "isn't giving people solutions," Macri said during a campaign rally in the central city of Rosario this week. "There is an important need for change."

Macri, currently on a campaign blitz across the countryside, declined several requests for an interview.

The son of an Italian-born industrial magnate, the 56-year-old Macri has said his political career was inspired by his 1991 kidnapping at the hands of federal police officers, who reportedly received several million dollars in ransom from Macri's father.

Seized by several men while returning home one night, Macri was held in a basement two weeks, not allowed to see daylight or even the faces of his captors. The ordeal, Macri has said, helped him see how poverty and violence lead people to do extreme things, situations he had never experienced growing up in a rich family.

In the 1990s, Macri made a name for himself as president of the Boca Juniors soccer team as it won numerous international titles, making him popular throughout the country of 41 million people.

In 2007, Macri was elected mayor of Buenos Aires and quickly showed his willingness to break political convention. □

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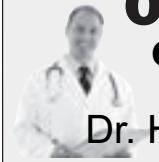
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
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AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
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April 17
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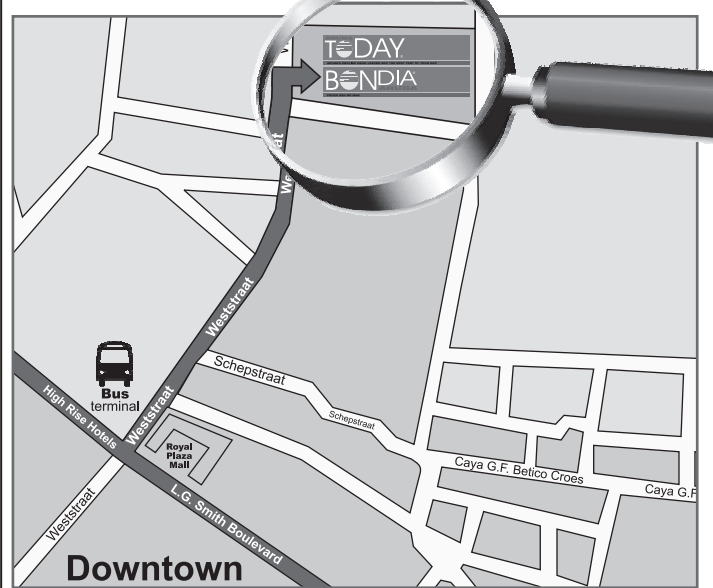
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Gray whales' Pacific crossing leads to questions of origin

DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A study of the migration of rare western Pacific gray whales has led U.S. and Russian scientists to question whether they're a separate population or simply California gray whales that have expanded their feeding grounds.

Researchers for decades have considered the two subpopulations to be distinct, with different territories and genetics.

California gray whales occupy mostly waters closer to North America, while the much smaller western Pacific gray whale population was thought to roam the eastern Asia coast.

Recently, scientists over two migratory seasons tagged western Pacific gray whales off Russia's Sakhalin Island, hoping to discover exactly where they spend winters.

The scientists were expecting western whales to migrate to breeding and calving grounds somewhere in the south China Sea, said Bruce Mate, director of the Marine Mammal Institute at Oregon State University and lead author of a research paper published this week in the journal *Biology Letters*.

"It didn't turn out that way," Mate said.

Instead, three whales with satellite tags were tracked swimming east and across



This Sept. 13, 2010 photo provided by the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute shows a western Pacific gray whale near Sakhalin Island in Russia. This Sept. 13, 2010 photo provided by the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute shows a western Pacific gray whale near Sakhalin Island in Russia.

the north Pacific to Alaska waters and into the migratory route of California gray whales, also known as eastern Pacific gray whales.

"It made us realize that many of these animals were born in Mexico," Mate said.

Western Pacific gray whales, once thought to be extinct, are the most endangered of the large whales, Mate said. Only 150 remain as the result of overhunting.

To protect them, environmental groups have campaigned against industrial activities such as oil and gas development off Sakhalin.

Federal and international whale experts have considered the two subpopulations of gray whales to be distinct because their territories were thought not to overlap, based on historic whaling data, and because of genetics analyses, Mate said.

Those conclusions are being reevaluated, he said.

The tagging project began in September 2010 and was done with scientists from the Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Kronotsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve and the Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Institute of Geogra-

phy.

The scientists were startled when a 13-year-old male whale they named Flex swam east to U.S. and Canada waters. He was tracked to the Oregon coast until his tag was lost.

A year later, a 6-year-old female named Agent was tracked halfway across the Gulf of Alaska before her tag was lost.

A third whale, a 9-year-old female dubbed Varvara, was tracked all the way to Baja Mexico, where most California gray whales breed and give birth.

Varvara spent 42 days off Baja California and visited the three main breed-

ing areas of the California gray whale. She then swam north and west and returned to Russia waters, crossing the Bering Sea near retreating sea ice in May 2012. Her trip took 172 days.

The nearly 14,000-mile (22,500-kilometer) swim is the longest recorded migratory journey by a mammal by more than 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers), Mate said.

The bigger question, however, is whether the western whales are remnants of a distinct population of endangered animals or the westernmost feeding group of fully recovered California gray whales.

"I don't have an answer to that," Mate said. "I know everybody would like me to. The sample size is just too small with three animals."

Biopsies and photo identifications indicate 30 of the western whales have made the crossing to North America, Mate said.

However, there also is evidence that western Pacific gray whales are not extinct, according to the paper.

Four western gray whales died in fishing nets off Japan between 2005 and 2007; a gray whale was stranded off southern China in November 2011; another was sighted in Mikawa Bay, Japan, in March 2012. □

Associated Press

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New 'Star Wars' teaser, cast information revealed at event

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer
ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— The force won't officially awaken until December, but Star Wars fans got an early glimpse Thursday with the debut of a spooky new teaser trailer for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." The clip features the wreckage of a star destroyer, X-Wing battles, the Millennium Falcon in action, and a first look at Harrison Ford as Han Solo.

"Chewie, we're home," Solo says at the close of the brief teaser, prompting the audience to scream and applaud.

Die-hard fans packed the main hall at the Anaheim Convention Center for the event known as Star Wars Celebration. They wore costumes and wielded light sabers as they watched director J.J. Abrams and producer and Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy kick off the four-day event.

Franchise cast newcomers Oscar Isaac, Daisy Ridley and John Boyega surprised the audience with appearances and regaled the rapt fans with anec-

dotes about the highly anticipated film set to hit theaters Dec. 18.

The fans were treated to a few morsels of new information even though the film remains cloaked in secrecy.

Abrams, who is finishing

be authentic. Building as much as we could was really the mandate."

He also revealed that the desert landscape seen in both teasers was the planet Jakku, not Tatooine as seen in other episodes. Filming took place in Abu

new teaser, viewers see Rey meeting Finn, the character played by Boyega, who wears a storm trooper suit in the clip and is in unspecified immediate danger.

Isaac said his character Poe Dameron, an X-Wing

be sporting her signature buns or metal bikini in the new film.

Harrison Ford, who was recently involved in a plane crash, did not attend. Kennedy assured the audience that the actor was resting and getting well at home.

Other special guests included a brigade of new storm troopers, series mainstay R2-D2, and the brand new ball droid BB8, who became a fan favorite when the first teaser trailer debuted in November.

"I loved all the little details like having BB8 come out," said 24-year-old fan Meghan Conmy, who traveled with friends from San Francisco for the event. "I was already excited but now even more so. I got chills. We were tearing up." Bedecked in a golden Queen Amidala costume, 10-year-old Julia Morales was also excited to be at her first celebration with her older sister Lucia. They live in Rancho Cucamonga.

"I can tell it's going to be really awesome," Morales said of the upcoming movie. □



This image released by Lucasfilm shows character Chewbacca, left, and Harrison Ford in a scene from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," the highly anticipated film by J.J. Abrams that hits theaters Dec. 18.

Associated Press

the edit of the film, spoke about his love for the series and his insistence on keeping sets for the new episode as real as possible, even in the age of computer-generated images.

"The thing that struck me ... is how real you knew and felt Star Wars was when you first saw 'A New Hope,'" he said. "You want it to be legitimate. You want it to

Dhabi to get the "John Ford landscapes" — a reference to the renowned director of Westerns.

It's "a Western and a fairy tale as much as anything else," Abrams said of "The Force Awakens."

Ridley said her character Rey is a scavenger who is completely self-sufficient and solitary until she meets another character. In the

pilot, "is the best freaking pilot in the whole galaxy."

"Star Wars" veterans Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, C-3PO actor Anthony Daniels and Chewbacca actor Peter Mayhew also made appearances.

"You grew up with us. It's amazing to be part of so many people's childhood," added Fisher, who noted that she would not

New documentary eyes story of Latino extras in 1956 'Giant'

RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

A new documentary seeks to tell the story of Mexican-American child actors who appeared in the 1956 blockbuster movie "Giant" but later could only view it in segregated theaters.

"Children of Giant" goes to the West Texas town where director George Stevens and his Hollywood crew set up shop to shoot one of the first, major films to openly tackle racism.

For the 60 years since the movie's release, most of the Mexican-American cast has been largely forgotten, though the movie introduced the nation to the discrimination Latinos faced, documentary director Hector Galan said.

"Many people don't realize how important the film

'Giant' was to Mexican-Americans at the time," Galan said. "For the first time on a national level the stories of Mexican-Americans were being told."

Based on the novel by Edna Ferber with the same name, "Giant" follows wealthy Texas cattle rancher Jordan Benedict, Jr., played by Rock Hudson, who marries Maryland socialite Leslie Lynnton, portrayed by Elizabeth Taylor. Their sprawling ranch is located on land once owned by impoverished Mexican-Americans, who still work the land but are denied basic medical care and decent jobs.

Benedict's son, played by Dennis Hopper, marries a Mexican-American nurse, played by Mexican actress Elsa Cardenas, creating ra-

cial tension. James Dean also starred in the movie.

At the time of its release, the movie was popular among Mexican-Americans, especially since Ferber had interviewed civil rights leaders Hector P. Garcia and lawyer John J. Herrera for her novel and the movie adopted real-life episodes from the new civil rights movement in Texas. Yet, many of the main actors were unaware of the discrimination the Mexican-American extras faced away from the movie set.

In the documentary, Galan interviews Cardenas who recalls how staff at a hotel looked at her suspiciously and how she didn't know the Mexican-Americans children on the set had to attend segregated



This undated photo provided by courtesy of Richard C. Miller shows, James Dean and two local children on the set of "Giant," in Marfa, Texas.

Associated Press

schools. He also interviews child actor Tony Cano who remembers incidents of racism.

The documentary also covers Stevens' experience in World War II as

part of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Stevens would become one of the first directors to capture images of the Holocaust and his footage would be used in the Nuremberg Trials. □

Ari Millen multiplies as male clones on 'Orphan Black'

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — No one was more surprised than Ari Millen to learn that this character on BBC America's "Orphan Black" was not being killed off, but was being expanded.

Millen was going from a supporting character as a creepy religious cult member to playing clones with a major story line in season three, which premieres Saturday (9 p.m. EDT).

"I was supposed to be dead in episode six (of season two)," he said in a recent interview. Then he got a call from the show's creator asking "if I would like to be a clone and then I hung up the phone, I sat down and caught my breath."

He kept the secret to himself (only telling his fiancée and agent), and watched the season finale with friends. In one of the final moments when it was revealed, Millen recalls turning to see their reaction. "Totally worth it," he said with a smile.

"Orphan Black" stars Tatiana Maslany in multiple roles as women who discover their clones and learn they are part of a conspiracy. Millen uses visual clues to play the clones. He likes to "get into costume, go into hair and makeup and see the guy in the mirror." But after a long day of filming, characteristics of one role can sometimes bleed into another.

"Every once in a while I'd get a reminder from our script supervisor, Melanie, 'You're a little bit too Mark right now. I need more Rudy,'" he said. He's learned to get comfortable playing both sides of a scene.

"The learning curve this season was remembering that I had to flip around and be the other character, so don't lock down something you can't change later," he said.

Millen welcomes the challenge, calling it "the best



In this March 25, 2015 file photo, Canadian actor and star of the BBC America series "Orphan Black" Ari Millen poses for a portrait in New York. **Associated Press**

time of my life."

"It's really exercising my acting muscle. I don't know if anything will ever top this and I'm happy to say that," he said. **q**

Documentary filmmakers' memoir gives backstage peek at stars



This book cover image released by Beaufort shows "In the Company of Legends," by Joan Kramer and David Heeley. **Associated Press**

DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Associated Press

It sounds so easy in the age of YouTube and Meerkat. Just put a camera in front of a couple of people and cue them to talk. Bang! You've got a documentary.

Yeah, right. Making a documentary is about as effortless as Fred Astaire's dance across the ceiling, a deceptively complicated bit of movie magic. For documentary filmmakers, the magic largely happens when they make production obstacles disappear, conjure up intriguing facts from hours of research and cast their spell on people not inclined to participate.

"In the Company of Legends" pulls back the curtain on documentary projects from Joan Kramer and David Heeley beginning with an Astaire profile in 1980. Hollywood actors are the focus — Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, James Stewart, Humphrey Bogart and Judy Garland among them. The secret to the duo's success can be boiled down to good work and an ability to gain and keep the trust of their wary subjects.

That trust allows them to coax people into offering painful as well as pleasant memories. Former agent and MCA boss Lew Wasserman tells them he dropped Bette Davis as a client because the actress was impossible to please. Olivia de Havilland speaks with surprising frankness about co-star Errol Flynn's love for her, and hers for him. Deirdre Flynn recalls how she found out about her father's death: A reporter rang her doorbell and asked the 14-year-old if she'd like to make a statement. That Kramer and Heeley knew how to assemble a crew and tap their own talents is almost beside the point. The real test came in raising money and securing a broadcast venue. For "The Spencer Tracy Legacy: A Tribute by Katharine Hepburn" (1986), the major commercial networks turned them down and it took three years to get the funding for what became a PBS show. They couldn't sell anyone on backing a profile of Cary Grant, one of the movies' most popular stars. Even if the money was there, gaining the rights to movie clips and other material crucial to an enter-

taining profile could be a problem. One lesson from their experience: Don't take the first "no" too seriously. Studios and stars alike had to be wooed into providing time and material, even in exchange for a fee or a distribution deal. However, a centennial program about songwriters George and Ira Gershwin fell apart when gaining the rights to their music proved too expensive.

Another lesson Kramer and Heeley learned along the way: Ask everyone about home movies and other memorabilia. People, studios and even major archives often didn't know or had simply forgotten that they had certain treasures. Costume designer Walter Plunkett poked around his closet at their request and discovered color footage of actor Charles Laughton from 1939's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Actress Joanne Woodard didn't realize that out in the barn at her country home was a copy of an early TV performance by her husband, Paul Newman.

Some of the celebrities recalled in the book appear just as you might think — Jimmy Stewart kind and self-effacing, Bette Davis curt and dismissive, Harvey Keitel testy and irritable — while others are surprising in their off-camera moments. Johnny Carson turns out to be much warmer than his reputation might suggest. On the fridge at Elizabeth Taylor's home is a photo of the actress at her heaviest — "She keeps it there as a reminder," her housekeeper explains.

If there is a star shining brighter than all others in this memoir, it's Katharine Hepburn. The four-time Oscar winner thinks nothing of bursting unannounced into the office of MGM's chairman to show the filmmakers the conference table where she and Greta Garbo had failed to convince studio boss Louis B. Mayer to make a movie of Eugene O'Neill's 1931 play "Mourning Becomes Electra." **□**

Lady Gaga, Herbie Hancock, Sam Smith to perform at Montreux



In a Monday, Feb. 23, 2015 file photo, singer Sam Smith arrives for the Burberry Womenswear Autumn/Winter 2015 show at London Fashion Week in Kensington Gardens, west London. **Associated Press**

BERLIN (AP) — Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett will be going cheek to cheek at this year's Montreux Jazz Festival.

The pop diva and the legendary crooner are continuing their successful collaboration that saw them reach No. 1 on the Billboard 200 last year with an album of jazz duets.

Organizers say the 49th edition of one of Europe's most renowned music

events will also feature the return of Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock, 36 years since they last paired up on the shores of Lake Geneva.

Santana, a Montreux regular, is also part of the two-week lineup along with Lenny Kravitz, Mary J. Blige, Dianne Reeves and this year's four-time Grammy winner Sam Smith.

The festival runs July 3-18. **□**



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